

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair

Dear SALC members,

It's election time! If you haven't already voted in the ASA and SALC election, please be sure to do so by **5 p.m. on June 1**. All members should have received a secure link

from ASA at the end of April. See **pages 4-6** of this newsletter to learn about the slate of candidates for our Section. Thanks to everyone who agreed to run for these offices. We appreciate your commitment to the Section.

The SALC program is also together! Get ready for some very exciting and lively sessions—and some surprises, too. Detailed information about the program will be in the next newsletter. For now, on **page 2**, you will find an **at-a-glance version of the SALC program** to help with your planning. Please note that while our official Section day is **Friday, August 17**, several of our sessions spill over to **Saturday, August 18**. Plan to arrive the evening of Thursday, August 16 and be ready to go bright and early on Friday morning. The searchable program can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/am2012/programschedule.cfm>

The SALC **mentoring dinner** at the annual meeting is always a much-anticipated event. Please block your calendars for **Friday evening**. See **page 3** for more information on the dinner.

If you are a **participant** in any sessions at the annual meeting, ASA requires that your membership is current as of **May 11th**. In addition, general preregistration for the annual meeting closes on **May 31st**.

We have also started a **new section of our newsletter and listserv—Transitions**—for members to share professional announcements or personal information. See **page 3**. We also hope to use the listserv and newsletter to share information on publications. See **pages 6-7**. Watch **David Warner's** listserv announcements for opportunities to share transitions and publications.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to the section.

--Rick Settersten

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SALC Activities at ASA Meeting At-A-Glance Program

Please join us August 17-20 in Denver for an informative, engaging exchange of ideas and camaraderie at the annual ASA meeting. SALC day is Friday, 17 August, carrying over to Saturday, 18 August. The preliminary program is now available at <http://www.asanet.org/am2012/programschedule.cfm>

More information will be forthcoming, but here is an "At-a-Glance" program schedule:

Friday, August 17

- 7 a.m. Council Meeting, tentative
- 8:30-10:10a.m. Roundtables
- 10:30-12:10p.m. Paper Session: Reclaiming the Sociology of Age: From Institutions to Identities
- 2:30-3:30p.m. Reception and Matilda White Riley Award Lecture
- 3:30-4:10p.m. Business Meeting
- 4:30-6:10p.m. Invited Session: What's in a Name? Perspectives on the Sociology of "Age," "Aging," and "the Life Course"
- Evening Mentoring Dinner (Specific time not finalized)

Saturday, August 18

- 8:30-10:10a.m. Paper Session: Children, Youth, and the Future of Aging (co-sponsored with the Section on Children and Youth)
- 10:30-12:10p.m. Invited Session: Children, Youth and Life - What Has Age Got to Do with It? (co-sponsored with the Section on Children and Youth)
- 12:30-2:10p.m. Paper Session: Media and Aging Audiences/Fans/Users: New Areas of Inquiry (co-sponsored with the Section on Culture)
- 2:30-4:10p.m. Regular Session: New Directions in Life Course Criminology

Sunday, August 19

- 8:30-10:10a.m. Thematic Session: Alternative Communities for the Aging
- 8:30-10:10a.m. Regular Session: Health Over the Life Course: Interplay with the Work Environment

Monday, August 20

- 2:30-4:10p.m. Regular Session: Life Course



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Program participants must pre-register for the annual meeting by **May 11** to have their names listed in the Final ASA Program. Registration information can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/AM2012/registration.cfm>

INFORMATION NEEDED

In an effort to keep SALC members connected, each newsletter will contain information on recent transitions. If you have a professional announcement (tenure and promotion, employment change) or personal information (marriages, births, tributes to recently deceased members) please send information to: jenifer_hamilluker@uncg.edu.

Please Support the SALC Mentoring Event in Denver!

The Section's annual mentoring event at the ASA meeting in Denver will be held on **Friday, August 17**, at Katie Mullen's Irish Pub, located at 16th Street Mall, 1550 Court Place. Following dinner and drinks, recent grads will share their experiences around our theme, "The Final Stretch: Job Hunting; Interviewing, Dissertating, and Planning Your Future." Information regarding ticket reservations will be distributed in June.

Donations from friendly individuals, departments, centers, and other units are being sought to keep to the event ticket price affordable for students. Pledges will be acknowledged in the program for the mentorship dinner, at the Section reception on Friday afternoon, and in the Section newsletter.

Pledges can be made by sending an email to salc-mentor@maxwell.syr.edu. Questions about the event should be sent to Chris Himes, Chair, SALC Committee on Mentoring and Professional Development, at salc-mentor@maxwell.syr.edu.



Transitions

Madonna Harrington Meyer and **Christine Himes**, Professors of Sociology at Syracuse University's Aging Studies Institute, have accepted positions as co-editors of Baywood Publisher's *Society and Aging Series*. Authors and editors interested in submitting full-length manuscripts for the series should contact mhm@maxwell.syr.edu or chimes@maxwell.syr.edu.

Christopher Steven Marcum has joined the RAND corporation as a National Institutes on Aging Post-doctoral Fellow. During his two year stint at RAND, Chris will continue to develop mathematical models of social life for older people. Currently, he is working on a project with his RAND colleagues that adapts inductive reasoning games to social networks in order to learn about how older and younger people make decisions about vaccinating for flu and getting screened for cancer.

In the fall of 2012, **Corey Remle** will begin a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC.

Candidates for 2012 SALC Officers

The Nominating Committee of the Section on Aging and the Life Course has released its slate of candidates. Voting began in late April and will continue throughout May. Voting members can vote by.....Candidate profiles are below.

Candidates for Chair Elect



Ellen Idler

Present Position: Prof of Sociology & Epidemiology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2009-present

Education

PhD, Yale University, 1985
MPhil, Yale Univ, 1985
MA, Rutgers Univ, 1976

Positions Held in ASA

Chair, Outstanding Publication Award Committee, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2008

Editorial Board, Journal of Health and Social Behavior 1992-94; 1996-98; 2005-07

Council Member, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2001-03

Member, Nominations Committee, ASA Medical Sociology Section, 1998-2000

Recent Publications

Idler, Ellen, David Boulifard, and Richard Contrada. In press. "Mending Broken Hearts: Marriage and Mortality following Cardiac Surgery." Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Idler, Ellen. 2011. "Religion and Adult Mortality." In International Handbook of Adult Mortality, Richard Rogers and Eileen Crimmins, Editors. Dordrecht: Springer. Pp. 345-377.

Personal Statement:

The Section on Aging and the Life Course rests at the center of the discipline. None of our social institutions can be understood without recognizing their internal stratification by age or the dynamic nature of the processes of cohorts succeeding one another in social structure. This insight, that society is always renewing itself -- always changing -- is fundamental to everything else in social science. No other ASA section represents stronger research at both the micro & the macro levels; the aging of individuals and the aging of societies are linked, yet separable. And no other ASA section has more potential links, both to other ASA sections, and to disciplines and professions outside our own. My teaching, research, writing, and professional service have always been centered on aging and the life course. I am honored to be nominated by my colleagues in the section.

Victor Marshall



Present Professional Position

Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999-present.

Education

PhD, Princeton, 2002
BA (Hon.), Univer of Alberta, Calgary, 1966

Positions Held in ASA

Council, Section on Aging and the Life Course (2007-2010)

Co-Chair, Mentorship Committee, Section on Aging and the Life Course (2006-2008)

Recent Publications

Clarke, Philippa J., Victor W. Marshall, James House, & Paula Lanz. 2011. "The social structuring of mental health over the adult life course: Advancing theory in the sociology of aging." Social Forces 89:1287-1314.

Marshall, Victor W., and Vern L. Bengtson. 2011. "Theoretical perspectives on the sociology of aging." Pp. 17-33 in The Handbook of Sociology of Aging, edited by Richard, A. Settersten, Jr., and Jaqueline L. Angel. New York: Springer.

Personal Statment:

As a career-long member of ASA since the late 1960s, and as an original member of this section as well as a founding and early executive committee member of the comparable ISA Research Committee, I was pleased to serve recently on Section Council. In particular, I co-chaired the Mentorship Committee and helped establish the mentoring dinner, which I would continue to support. I bring extensive organizational experience in other associations such as Southern Gerontological Society and Canadian Association on Aging; as well as editorial experience to address issues related to existing and emerging section publication vehicles. I would support current initiatives to partner imaginatively with other ASA sections, and would endeavor to increase international membership and participation as well as to build on recent gains in section membership.

Candidates for Council

There are four candidates for two slots on the Council. The 3-year term begins in 2012.



Ingrid Arnet Connidis

Present Position:

Professor of Sociology, University of Western Ontario, Canada, 1981-present.

Personal Statement:

I am delighted to have been nominated for the position of Council Member for the Aging and the Life Course Section. For many years, I have enjoyed being a member of this section, participating in paper sessions and roundtables as a presenter, discussant, and listener, and valuing the personal contact of our mentorship gatherings and section meetings. Like many members of ASA and this section, I also belong to complementary organizations, including the Gerontological Society of America and the National Council on Family Relations. My disciplinary heart belongs to ASA and I welcome an opportunity to give back to our section by serving on the SALC Council.



Stephen Crystal

Present Professional Position:

Board of Governors Professor, Rutgers University, 2009-current

Personal Statement:

Throughout my career I have been interested in expanding the contributions of sociological analysis to theoretical and empirical understandings of cumulative advantage and disadvantage processes over the life course that lead to the very high level of economic and health inequality that exists in late life. This work began in the 1980s with my book, *America's Old Age Crisis: Public Policy and the Two Worlds of Aging*, and my 1990 Gerontologist article, "Cumulative Advantage, Cumulative Disadvantage, and Economic Well-Being Among the Elderly", and in more recent work has extended to closer focus on health disparities and the health-wealth relationship in late life, and relationships between policy and life-course processes. SALC has been a key venue for bringing together researchers interested in these issues, and mentoring upcoming scholars. I look forward to contributing on section council to bringing in additional talented researchers, providing for relevant scholarship, and promoting research on these questions.



James Raymo

Present Professional Position:

Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2000-present

Personal Statement:

The Section on Aging and the Life Course is an inclusive forum for the presentation and development of research in one of the most important and vibrant areas of Sociology. My own work, which draws upon a wide range of theoretical perspectives and is both domestic and international in focus, has benefited greatly from participation in Section-sponsored sessions. I am eager for an opportunity to serve and represent the Section's membership.



Yang Yang

Present Professional Position

Associate Professor of Sociology and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center; Faculty Fellow, Carolina Population Center, UNC Chapel Hill, 2010 - present.

Personal Statement:

I have tremendously benefited from the participation in the activities of the Section on Aging and the Life Course and mentorship of its members over the years. I consider myself qualified to run for the Council as I have been active in both research and teaching in this field and view life course and aging as my main intellectual identity. I'd be thrilled to serve in any way to give back and show my gratitude and continuous dedication to the field of aging.

Nominees for SALC Student Representative



Zoya Gubernskaya

Present Position: Doctoral Student,
University of California, Irvine

Personal Statement:

My name is Zoya Gubernskaya and I am a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of California, Irvine. My broad research interests are in sociology of family, immigration, health, and aging. More specifically, my dissertation is focusing on naturalization and health outcomes of older foreign-born persons in the U.S. This is my first time running for ASA office although I have been a member of the ASA and SALC for several years. In the past I have taken advantage of SALC's student oriented activities and informative newsletters. Now I hope to use my knowledge and experience to contribute to the section's work in order to benefit student members.

Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson

Present Position: Doctoral Student,
Purdue University

Personal Statement:

It would be an honor to serve as Student Member of the Section on Aging and the Life Course Council. I have been a member of the Section since my entry into graduate school in 2008, and continually look for ways to become more involved. The Section on Aging and the Life Course has not only honed my interests in aging and life course research, but has also provided valuable mentoring along the way. The mentoring dinner, in particular, introduces students to a diverse network of scholars and provides a rich learning experience. I have benefitted greatly from this event and will continue to support and enhance it. I was honored to be co-recipient of the section's 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, and now welcome the opportunity to serve the Section.



Recent Publications by SALC

John DeLamater. 2012. "Sexual Expression in Later Life: A Review and Synthesis." *Journal of Sex Research* 49: 125-141.

This review summarizes literature on the sexuality of men and women over age 50 as researched by social and health scientists. Research on the relationship of biological factors (changes accompanying aging), health (physical, mental, and medication use), psychological factors (attitudes, information about sex), relationship factors (status, satisfaction), and sexual functioning (desire, dysfunctions, treatment) to sexual behavior is reviewed. The review suggests that (a) men and women remain sexually active into their 70s and 80s, (b) aging-related physical changes do not necessarily lead to decline in sexual functioning, and (c) good physical and mental health, positive attitudes toward sex in later life, & access to a healthy partner are associated with continued sexual activity. In turn, regular sexual expression is associated with good physical and mental health.

Lin, I-Fen and Susan L. Brown. 2012. "Unmarried Boomers Confront Old Age: A National Portrait." *The Gerontologist* 52:153-165.

Our study provides a national portrait of the heterogeneity among Baby Boomers. We used the 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census 5% samples and the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) to document the trends in the share and marital status composition of the unmarried population during midlife. Using the 2009 ACS, we developed a sociodemographic portrait of Baby Boomers according to marital status. One in three Baby Boomers was unmarried. The vast majority of these unmarried Boomers were either divorced or never-married; just 10% were widowed. Unmarried Boomers faced greater economic, health and social vulnerabilities compared to married Boomers. Divorced Boomers had more economic resources and better health than widowed and never-married Boomers. Widows appeared to be the most disadvantaged among Boomer women, whereas never-marrieds were the least advantaged among Boomer men.

Information Needed

A new section of the newsletter will highlight recent peer-reviewed publications authored by SALC members. This feature will allow the membership to keep abreast of the exciting scholarship produced by our diverse section. Email the publication's full citation and abstract to our newsletter editor, Jenifer Hamil-Luker, at jlhamill@uncg.edu



Recent Publications by SALC Members

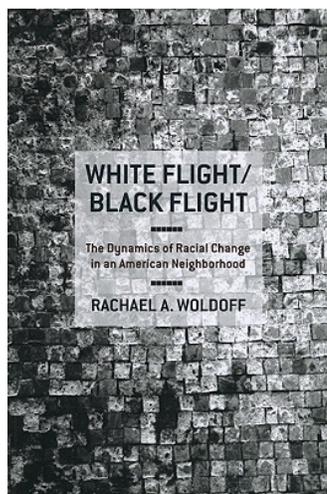
Teerawichitchainan, Bussarawan and Kim Korinek. 2012. "The Long-Term Impact of War on Health and Wellbeing in Northern Vietnam: Some Glimpses from a Recent Survey." *Social Science & Medicine* 74: 1995-2004.



War is deemed a major threat to public health; yet, the long-term effects of war on individual health have rarely been examined in the context of developing countries. Based on data collected as a pilot follow-up to the Vietnam Longitudinal Survey, this study examines current health profiles of northern Vietnamese war survivors who entered early adulthood during the Vietnam War and now represent Vietnam's older adult population. To ascertain how war and military service in the early life course may have had long-term impacts on health status of Vietnam's current older adults, we compare multi-dimensional measures of health among veterans and nonveterans, and within these groups, regardless of their military service, between combatants and noncombatants. Multivariate results suggest that despite prolonged exposure to war, veterans and those who served in combat roles are not significantly different from their civilian and noncombatant counterparts on most health outcomes later in life. This is in contrast to American veterans who fought on the opposing side of the war. The near absence of differences in older adult health among northern Vietnamese with varying degrees of war involvement might be explained by the encompassing extent of war; the notion that time heals; and the hardiness and resilience against ill health that are by-products of shared struggle in war and a victorious outcome.

Treas, Judith and Zoya Gubernskaya. 2012. "Farewell to Moms? Maternal Contact in Seven Countries, 1986-2001". *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74: 297-311.

Challenging the popular narrative of the long-run decline of the extended family, contemporary studies of intergenerational relations insist that the ties between adult children and their parents are increasing in importance. Although research documents a decline in multigenerational households, there is little empirical evidence on changes over time in other dimensions of intergenerational solidarity. Drawing on 1986 and 2001 data from the International Social Survey Programme, the authors analyzed trends in maternal contact in 7 Western countries: (a) Australia, (b) Austria, (c) Germany (West), (d) Great Britain, (e) Hungary, (f) Italy, and (g) the United States (N = 7,578). They found no evidence that adult children's contact with mothers became less frequent. In particular, contacts that do not require face-to-face interaction increased, consistent with the diffusion of cell phones and Internet use over the period. Although theorizing points to demographic developments as driving trends in intergenerational cohesion, changes in population composition played only a minor role.



Woldoff, Rachel. 2011. *White Flight/Black Flight: The Dynamics of Racial Change in an American Neighborhood*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

White Flight/Black Flight takes readers inside a neighborhood that has shifted rapidly and dramatically in race composition over the last two decades. The book presents a portrait of the life of a working-class neighborhood in the aftermath of white flight, illustrating cultural clashes that accompany racial change as well as common values that transcend race, from the perspectives of three different groups who are living it: elderly white stayers, black pioneers, and "second-wave" blacks. Woldoff describes the period of neighborhood transition when white residents still remain, though in diminishing numbers, and a second, less discussed stage of racial change: black flight. She reveals what happens after white flight is complete: "Pioneer" blacks flee to other neighborhoods or else adjust to their new segregated residential environment by coping with the loss of relationships with their longer-term white neighbors, signs of community decline, and conflicts with the incoming second wave of black neighbors.

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2011 Section on Aging and the Life Course Mentoring Dinner and Program

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