

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair

Greetings! There is lots of news in this Winter Edition of the Newsletter, about the program for the 2014 Annual Meeting, about the upcoming elections for SALC offices, and about how we can get everyone involved in the discussion about changing the name of the section.

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First, look on the next page to see SALC’s program for the upcoming meeting in San Francisco. We will have one invited paper session that will focus on aging- and cohort-related social change in major social institutions, including the family, religion, criminal justice, and health care. We have invited some great speakers who work in those fields to reflect on these processes, and we hope that this will be just the start of building bridges between SALC and many other relevant ASA sections. Our two open paper sessions also focus on social change, this time through the mechanism of alterations in the timing of life course events and transitions, in young adulthood and midlife. And our Matilda White Riley Lecture will be given by a distinguished leader of the field, Gunhild Hagestad. There is a lot to look forward to at the annual meeting, including the SALC Mentoring Dinner, on which our committee is already hard at work.

Second, we have a slate of exceptional candidates for SALC offices for 2014-2015. Please take the time to read their statements, and when ASA opens the election, VOTE!

Third, look for my Editorial and Call for Thoughts on changing the name of the section. This discussion has been underway for the last two annual meetings, but there is never enough time for everyone to speak. We will put out a Special Edition Spring Newsletter (thanks Kristen!) devoted to publishing your comments. We hope to have a high level of participation on this important issue.

So read on — SALC is alive and thriving! Check us out on Facebook — SALC (Sociology of Aging & Life Course)!

Ellen Idler, Chair 2013-2014



SALC Activities at ASA Meeting At-A-Glance Program

Please join us August 16-19 in San Francisco for an informative, engaging exchange of ideas and camaraderie at the annual ASA meeting. SALC day is Monday, August 18th.

More information will be forthcoming, but here is a list of the SALC sessions at the 2014 meeting:

Section on Aging and the Life Course Business Meeting and Matilda White Riley Lecture (Invited Session)

The Aging and Life Course Section business meeting will be followed by the Matilda White Riley Lecture and reception. The 2013 Matilda White Riley Award recipient is Dr. Gunhild Hagestad of the University of Agder, Norway. Dr. Hagestad will deliver her address, which will be followed by the Section's reception. The 2014 Matilda White Riley Award recipient will be announced at the business meeting.
Organizer: Ellen Idler, Emory University

Aging and Cohort Replacement as Engines of Social Change in Institutions (Invited Session)

Matilda White Riley's age stratification perspective first illuminated how the processes of aging, cohort flow, and replacement are fundamental sources of social change. The prolonged aging of individuals and waves of unsynchronized cohorts during the 20th century have forced social institutions such as the family, criminal justice, education, religion, and health care to adapt, increase/decrease capacity, shift functions, and drive social change.

Frank Furstenberg, University of Pennsylvania
Mark Chaves, Duke University
Bernice Pescosolido, Indiana University
Robert Sampson, Harvard University
Organizer and Discussant: Ellen Idler, Emory University

Roundtable Session on Aging and the Life Course

Organizer: John Reynolds, Florida State University

Changes in the Timing of Life Course Transitions in Young Adulthood: Taking Longer, Maybe Never

This session will focus on changes -- primarily delays -- in the timing of critical life course transitions in young adulthood: completing education, entering the work force, establishing an independent household, marriage and childbearing. Papers may examine subgroup differences in life course transitions, how new life course patterns in the lives of young adults have arisen in response to social forces, and/or demonstrate their impact on social institutions.

Organizer: Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin

Health and the Life Course

This session will focus on factors that influence health across the life course, including early-life exposures, the timing of events in the transition to adulthood, and planning for end of life. Papers employ new data and insights to evaluate long-standing questions in life course research such as cumulative influences on health, variation across age in the predictors of health outcomes, and the ways in which the sequencing of life course events shapes subsequent health outcomes.

Organizer: James Raymo, University of Wisconsin

Candidates for 2014 SALC Officers

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

Candidates for Chair Elect

Jeylan Mortimer

Present Position: Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota, 1982-present



Education: PhD, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 1972. MA, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 1967.

Positions Held in ASA:

ASA Committees: On Committees, 1983-4, 1996-7; ASA-AAAS Liaison, 1986; Publications, 1986-9; Program, 1996; Nominations, 1998-9
ASA Social Psychology Section: Section Chair, 1988-9; Chair, Cooley-Mead Award Committee, 1992-93; Chair, Nominations Committee, 1980-1, 1994-5.

ASA Section on Children and Youth: Section Chair, 1997-8; Chair, Graduate Paper Award Selection Committee, 1998-9.

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course: Council, 1989-92
Contemporary Sociology Editorial Board, 1983-6; *Social Psychology Quarterly* Deputy Editor, 1996-00, Editorial Board Member, 1994-96; 2006-09.

Recent Publications:

Mortimer, Jeylan T. 2012. "The Evolution, Contributions, and Prospects of the Youth Development Study: An Investigation in Life Course Social Psychology." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 75:5-27.

Staff, Jeremy and Jeylan T. Mortimer. 2012. "Explaining the Motherhood Wage Penalty." *Demography* 49:1-21.

Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick, Rayna A. Sage, and Jeylan T. Mortimer. 2012. "Work Values, Early Career Difficulties, and the U.S. Economic Recession." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 75: 242-267.

Vuolo, Mike, Jeremy Staff, and Jeylan T. Mortimer. 2012. "Weathering the Great Recession: Psychological and Behavioral Trajectories in the Transition from School to Work." *Developmental Psychology* 48: 1759-1773.

Vuolo, Mike, Jeylan T. Mortimer, and Jeremy Staff. 2013. "Adolescent Precursors of Pathways from School to Work." *Journal of Research on Adolescence*. On-line prepublication, March.

Mortimer, Jeylan T., Lei Zhang, Jeanette Hussemann, and Chen-Yu Wu. (Forthcoming) "Parental Economic Hardship and Children's Achievement Orientations." *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*.

Personal Statement:

As a committed member of the Section on Aging and the Life Course since its inception, it is indeed an honor to be nominated to serve as its Chair. Past leaders of the SALC have been tremendous inspirations for my research and teaching, and attending SALC sessions and the Mentoring Dinner are highlights of each ASA Meeting. Our Section provides a superb context for the development and dissemination of new ideas and methodological approaches, for the communication of research findings, and for exploring the application of our knowledge to pressing policy issues surrounding aging and development. Through its activities, SALC promotes relationships with members of related ASA sections, and welcomes students to join our wide-ranging and exciting subdiscipline. As Chair, I will lead the Section in its continuing support of the broad sweep of life course and aging studies across all phases of human lives, encompassing cross-national differences, historical variability across cohorts, institutional contexts, and individual biography.

Merril Silverstein

Present Position: Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies, Department of Sociology

& School of Social Work, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. 2012-present.

Education: Ph.D., Columbia University, Sociology, New York, 1990

M.S., Columbia University, Sociology, New York, 1989
 M.S.W. Columbia University, Social Work, New York, 1978

Positions Held in ASA:

Section on Aging and the Life Course: Student Paper

Award Committee, 2004-2006;

Council Member, 2006-08; Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Committee, 2007.

Recent Publications:

Silverstein, M., et al., 2013. "Intergenerational Support and Emotional Wellbeing of Older Jews and Arabs in Israel" *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 75: 950-963.

Silverstein, M. and Giarrusso, R. (Eds.). 2013. *Kinship and Cohort in an Aging Society: From Generation to Generation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Silverstein, M, Conroy, S. & Gans, D. 2012. "Beyond Solidarity, Reciprocity, and Altruism: Moral Capital as a Unifying Concept in Intergenerational Support for Elderly People" *Ageing and Society*, 32: 1246-1262.

Silverstein, M. & Giarrusso, R. 2010. "Aging and Family Life" (Decade Review). *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72: 1039-1058.

Personal Statement:

I am thrilled to be nominated for Chair of SALC. The section's intellectual vibrancy and commitment to promoting high quality scholarship have been a source of professional sustenance for me for over 20 years. What makes SALC particularly important to our specialty area in sociology is that it is seamless from the top down: its energies and activities nurture emerging scholars while honoring the most distinguished among us. Now in my fifth and final year as editor-in-chief of *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* I have had the unique opportunity to gain wide purview over the field of social gerontology and, in particular, the sociology of age, aging, and the life course. What strikes me most in my experience is the blurring of geographic and intellectual boundaries within our field as demonstrated by the proliferation of research that treats social aspects of aging in a multinational-comparative context and cross-fertilizes with ideas from other disciplines within and outside of sociology. If elected as section Chair, I plan to continue the strong leadership that SALC has exemplified, capitalize on its strengths, and steer its evolution toward continued growth and integration while preserving the unique character that has served it so well over all these years.



Candidates for Council

There are four candidates for two slots on the Council. The 3-year term begins in 2014.



Kristen Schultz Lee

Present Position:

Associate Professor of Sociology, University at Buffalo (SUNY).

Personal Statement:

I am honored to have been nominated for the SALC Council. I have been active in SALC since I was a graduate student, including organizing a paper session on mixed methods and serving as the section newsletter editor since 2012. I have always found the section to be welcoming and supportive of junior scholars. My research on caregiving in Japanese families and on the role of cohort processes in motivating change in gender beliefs has benefited from the mentoring I received from section members and my engagement with SALC activities. I would welcome the opportunity to further my involvement in the section and to work towards helping SALC continue to grow.



Madonna Harrington Meyer

Present Position:

Professor of sociology, faculty associate at the Aging Studies Institute, and senior research affiliate at the Center for Policy Research at Syracuse University.

Personal Statement

I am delighted to be nominated for the SALC council. I have been active in SALC since I was a graduate student at Florida State and throughout my years at the University of Illinois and Syracuse University. I served a term on SALC council from 1998-2000. I have served on the SALC nominations committee, distinguished book award committee, and the student paper competition committee, and chaired the SALC mentoring dinner. I have also organized several round tables, paper sessions, and plenary sessions with SALC. I am editor of *Care Work (Routledge 2000)*, co-author with Pam Herd of *Market Friendly or Family Friendly? (Russell Sage 2007)*, and author of a forthcoming book, *Grandmothers at Work (NYU 2014)*. SALC has meant a great deal to me and I would be happy to work toward its long term development.



Jennifer Karas Montez

Present position:

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Core Research Faculty in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, Case Western Reserve University.

Personal statement:

I am delighted to have been nominated for a SALC council position. I have been involved in the section since my first year in graduate school, thanks to the encouragement of Jacqui Angel and several other SALC members. I have served as a SALC student representative and also helped organize mentoring dinners and section sessions at ASA annual meetings. I have benefitted tremendously from the intellectual engagement, mentorship, and friendship that SALC members offer so generously. My research on the early-life origins of later-life health has also greatly benefitted from SALC membership. I know how valuable the section is to junior scholars who want to become more integrated with the aging and life course community. I hope to foster that important function as a council member and also help the section continue to grow and thrive.



Markus Shafer

Present Position:

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto.

Personal Statement:

It is an honour to be nominated to serve on council for the Section on Aging and the Life Course. I became a member of the section as a grad student in 2005, after being introduced to life course sociology by my advisor, Ken Ferraro. Currently, I'm an assistant professor at the University of Toronto. My research focuses on topics such as the long-term health consequences of childhood events and experiences, subjective aspects of aging, and social networks among older adults. As a junior scholar, SALC has been formative in my professional development. I've benefitted greatly from SALC-sponsored sessions at the ASA meeting and the terrific mentorship dinners. It would be a privilege to give back and to serve the section.

Nominees for SALC Student Representative



Kyle J. Sherman-Wilkins

Present Position: Doctoral Student,
The Pennsylvania State University

Personal Statement:

I am ecstatic by the prospect of serving as student representative for ASA's Section on Aging and the Life Course! I am currently a 2nd year graduate student pursuing a dual-degree in sociology and demography. Broadly, my research interests are in the areas of the social determinants of women's health

over the life span; aging and health among sexual minorities; and the intersection between family and individual wellbeing. Through research opportunities with my faculty mentors and fellow SALC members, Drs. Melissa Hardy, Duane Alwin, and Tetyana Pudrovska, I developed a strong appreciation for how the life course paradigm can enhance understanding of the influence of social forces on human development. Currently, I am a NICHD Funded Pre-Doctoral Trainee in Family Demography where I am being trained to apply an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of human development and aging in a family context. Though this is only my second year as a SALC student member, I have already benefited much from interacting and networking with fellow SALC members. I am eager to help promote and strengthen this section of ASA by urging my graduate student peers to join and participate in the SALC. Thank you so much for your consideration, and, as always, Happy Aging!

Stacy Marlena Torres

Present Position: Doctoral Student, New York University

Personal Statement:

I am a doctoral candidate in sociology at New York University, where my current work focuses on social ties among older adults aging in place. I've been a member of the Section on Aging and the Life Course since 2010, and last year I received the SALC graduate student paper award. My dissertation examines urban belonging among older adults aging in a gentrified New York City neighborhood. I have spent the past four years conducting a multi-site ethnographic study following participants as they have coped with the closing of neighborhood establishments, the loss of neighbors, friends, and family, health setbacks, depression, illness, financial struggles, and other everyday challenges. In my teaching and writing in publications such as *Contexts* and *The New York Times* I strive to highlight aging issues for wider audiences. I'm delighted to be nominated for student representative, and if elected I will work my hardest to promote SALC to fellow graduate students, strengthen student involvement, and serve the section as a whole with enthusiasm and diligent effort.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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2013 Matilda White Riley Award and SALC Business Meeting Reception

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Editorial and Call for Thoughts

Should we change the name of the section?

As chair of SALC this year, it falls to me to continue the conversation that began at the 2013 Annual Meeting, when then past-chair Rick Settersten (and past-past chair Dale Dannefer) initiated a proposal to change the name of the section from the Section on Aging and the Life Course to the Section on Age and the Life Course. The minutes of the 2013 SALC Business Meeting (thanks, Janet Wilmoth!) record the relatively brief discussion that took place:

Continuing dialogue about the name of our Section: A discussion was opened about changing the section name. Dale Dannefer began by advocating for changing the name to "Sociology of Age and the Life Course," which built upon the statement that was circulated in advance of the meeting. In the brief discussion that followed, multiple, strong opinions were raised both in favor and against that proposed change. Given the limited time, it was agreed that the discussion should continue in the section's newsletter and on the listserv, with position statements and other mechanisms for debating the relative merits and concerns associated with these and any other potential name options. Ellen Idler, as incoming chair, will coordinate these forums.

As a long-time member of the section, I can remember the *original* debate about changing the name of the section, back in the 1990s, when we were known simply as the Section on Aging. At the time, I thought the debate about adding "and the Life Course" to the name was intellectually interesting, and appealingly self-reflective, but something that other, wiser people would decide.

This time is different. I care very much about the future of the Section and feel a big sense of responsibility for its welfare.

So although I have spoken out previously *against* the name change, today I find myself of two minds. On the one hand, I think that the term *aging* (a verb) brings a vital sense of the dynamic and shifting basis of all social life. At the individual level we are aging continually, beginning at birth and throughout the life course. At the societal level cohorts are continually replacing each other, renewing the social institutions they populate. Aging is a process, and the dynamism it contributes to the structural functional perspective constitutes the core of Matilda White Riley's profound contribution to American sociology – this may be my idiosyncratic interpretation of her work but I really believe it.

However, on the other hand, I am aware that the term aging carries with it -- for some at least -- the strong connotation of *old age*. And while some of us in SALC also (and perfectly happily) consider ourselves gerontologists, we value our SALC identity precisely because it brings with it the perspective of the entire life course -- in other words, *we* know the difference. So what I'm concerned about is the identity of SALC for other ASA members. If students and new ASA members perceive our section to be exclusively, or even primarily, focused on old age, then we are misrepresenting our scholarship, and possibly harming the growth and development of our section.

So do we need to change the name of the section? Maybe, yes. Hence, I would like to propose an alternative name for the section that will meet both of my own values and concerns. I believe that this name will retain the element of dynamic change inherent in the verb-form, while also addressing the issue of age as a stratifying feature or social location relevant to every member of society. My proposal is that we rename the section the Section on *Aging, Cohorts, and the Life Course*. This new name would have the additional benefit of underscoring both the macro and micro levels of analysis that characterize the scholarship of our members, and bring the dimension of historical change to our identity.

So let us continue our discussion, begun at the meeting, by digital means -- an option not available to section members in 1995!

In order to fully air your thoughts, we will publish a special Spring SALC newsletter devoted entirely to this issue. The discussion can then be continued in the regular Summer newsletter, and/or on the Aging Announce listserv, prior to the annual meeting. We want everyone's thoughts on the subject of changing the name of the section, to

- Age and the Life Course
- Age, Aging, and the Life Course
- Aging, Cohorts, and the Life Course
- Some other name
- OR not making a change at all!

So that we can include as many voices as possible, please cap your contributions at no more than 300 words. The deadline for publishing them in this special Spring Newsletter will be March 15. Send your thoughts by email to Kristen Schultz Lee (kslee4@buffalo.edu) and to me, Ellen Idler (eidler@emory.edu). We look forward to a lively discussion!

SALC Seeks Nominations for 2014 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, 2014** to:

Professor Deborah Carr
Chair, SALC Matilda White Riley Award Committee
Department of Sociology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
26 Nichol Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Email: carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu

We're on the web, Facebook
and Twitter!

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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 2011-2013. 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 award should be sent by **March 1, 2014** to:

Professor Kenneth Ferraro

Chair, SALC Outstanding Publication Award
Department of Sociology
Purdue University
700 W. State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2059
Email: ferraro@purdue.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 coauthored 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 2013.

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 2014 may have been published anytime during 2013 or 2014). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc). All nominations are due by **March 1, 2014**. 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 Y. Claire Yang

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SLLS International Conference
Lives in Translation: Life Course Research and Social Policies
 Lausanne, Switzerland
 9 - 11 October 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS & SYMPOSIA

Please mark your calendars for the fifth annual conference of the [Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies](#) (SLLS).

Although the overall conference theme will focus on social policy this year, we welcome conference submissions from **all areas of longitudinal and life course studies**: physical, psychological, social developmental and ageing processes and functioning within and across life course stages from infancy to old age; methods and findings of cohort studies; other sources of longitudinal data such as panel studies and record linkage; international comparisons; household, and income dynamics; intergenerational transfers and returns to learning; gene-environment interactions; 'mixed', and comparative methods; innovative methodology in design, measurement, data management, analysis and research practice (quantitative and qualitative).

Proposals are sought for three kinds of conference presentation:

1. A symposium comprising at least 3 papers to be presented in a one and a half hour session or a series of two sessions. For each symposium suggested we require an overall abstract of no more than 300 words plus an abstract of no more than 300 words for each paper. Please provide names and professional affiliations for all presenters.
2. An individual paper for oral presentation for which an abstract of no more than 300 words is required. **
3. A poster presentation for which an abstract of no more than 200 words is required.

** Papers which do not fit into regular sessions may be allocated to Round Table discussion groups or presented as posters.

Abstract submission deadline is **March 31st 2014**. Full submission details on the web: <http://www.slls.org.uk/pages/conference.shtml>

Webmaster Needed for SALC Website

Unlike many other ASA Sections, the SALC has not had webmaster for its Section web site, and we have been relying on ASA to make changes for us. Last year ASA announced that they would like all Sections to take over this responsibility themselves, as many had already done. So SALC needs to be self-sufficient, and we are looking for a volunteer with some web experience to take on this job. It is not a lot of work and the work is not very difficult. ASA has a tutorial and will provide support to get someone started. The (necessary minimum) duties of webmaster take very little time for most of the year, but a creative person could see ways to develop the web site and make it more fun and useful for all our members. The Webmaster would join the SALC Communications Team which includes Kristen Schultz Lee (Newsletter), David Warner (Listserv) and all our friends who post on Facebook. The position is open to any member who has the time and the web skills, and who wishes to volunteer. We would like a time commitment of at least two years.

If you are interested in serving as Webmaster for the ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course, please email your name, contact information, and a brief sentence or two describing your experiences with web site maintenance to:

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 eidler@emory.edu

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: kslee4@buffalo.edu. The newsletter is usually distributed three times a year in the fall, winter, and summer.

Torres Op-Ed Piece

Stacy Torres (Ph. D. student, NYU) recently wrote an Op-Ed piece for the *New York Times* about her dissertation research on older people socializing in neighborhood places. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/22/opinion/old-mcdonalds.html>

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