Dear SALC colleagues,

I begin this newsletter with overdue thanks. My years in ASA and as member of SALC had taught me already that this is a vibrant section, with deeply committed members. But in these few months working as chair, I have been impressed even more, for instance, by Elizabeth Cooksey’s program committee who put together such great sessions for the meetings in New York City; and by the hard work of our members who choreographed the mentoring dinner (Janet Wilmoth, Stephanie Ureña and Phillip Cantu) and insured that attendees could learn while greeting old friends and making new ones. As in the past, Janet did a fabulous job in coordinating, making sure that all ran smoothly. Keep an eye out for news about next year’s dinner, and perhaps some new aspects!

I extend my thanks as well to those who have given so much to this section, and whose terms of office have ended, though their commitment and work on our behalves have not. First, let me express gratitude to Elizabeth Cooksey, our outgoing chair (but, happily for me, our past-chair, upon whom I can rely to provide help!) who moved our section forward, organized a fabulous meeting, and kept us on track when the unforeseen struck during our meeting. We are grateful for the three years of superb service provided by Debi Street, our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer; she ended her term heroically by managing to provide us what we needed at our business meeting despite having been stranded in Singapore! Pam Herd concluded her time as past-Chair in style, running the Nominations Committee and giving us a great slate of candidates for the past year’s election. Thanks are due as well to Tyson Brown and Cathy Liu, whose three-year terms as Council members has ended, and who served on many section committees. Thank you to Stephanie Ureña, our student Council member, who has helped put together the program for the mentoring dinner as well as our newsletter. Happily, she is continuing her work on the newsletter, along with Shannon Shen. Let me also express my appreciation for the service of John Reynolds, who has stepped away from his time as the SALC webpage manager.

Special thanks go to Miles Taylor, in particular, but also to all of you for your work on our membership drive. I was heartened by the number of people who responded to our pleas and helped boost our total membership prior to the Sept. 30th deadline. With Miles’s leadership and your help, we got close but, unfortunately, did not make our goal of 600. Reaching 600 has been difficult in recent years, and reflects the overall decline in ASA membership. To address this, Miles has been working on a proposal that we will submit to ASA Council asking to reduce the number of members required per session allotment, to be in sync with the overall decrease in ASA members.

Let me also welcome new members who are taking on roles in our section leadership! Jennifer Kratas Montez, our section Chair-Elect, has jumped into section governance. Dawn Carr began her term as secretary-treasurer a bit early, filling in for Debi Street. Thank you, Dawn, for your willingness to jump in! I am also happy to greet Jason Houle and Amélie Quesnel-Vallé, new members of Council who, as you will see, are already hard at work on the upcoming program in San Francisco. And I welcome our new student Council member, Catherine Garcia, who will represent her peers while also working on the mentoring dinner. Last, but definitely not least, a huge thanks goes to Julia Wolf, a graduate student at West Virginia University, who has volunteered to work on the section webpage, and who has already added updates, including posting a link to Council minutes. She is planning some redesign as well, which should make our page more intuitive and interesting. In the meantime, please take time to look at the webpage as program and award announcements (due March 1) are already posted!
Our section program will be a bit smaller this year: we have two sessions allotted to us (described later in the newsletter), as well as the roundtable session. That said, two developments will enhance members’ abilities to participate in the meetings. First, ASA is including two additional regular sessions in their open call—one on aging, and one on life course—to which our members can submit. Second, as a part of our roundtable session, and in an effort to allow wider member involvement in the meeting in a more formal way, we are reinstituting research working groups, organized by section members. These are described below in our program call for papers. Please take a look at this new roundtable description, and note that these must be submitted through normal channels by Jan. 29.

Again, details on these sessions appear below. Combined with the ASA open sessions, there will be many opportunities for section members to participate at the meetings in San Francisco. So make your plans to submit by Jan. 29! And if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming meetings, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you all for your work and collegiality, and have a wonderful holiday season.

Toni
Toni Calasanti, SALC Chair (2019-2020)
Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2019 in NYC

Award Winners

2019 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

From Toni Calasanti’s award presentation at the 2019 SALC Business meeting:

First, let me thank the committee members for their time and thoughtful review of everyone nominated. All the nominees for this award were highly deserving, with excellent records of scholarship that represent important contributions and strong commitment to aging and the life course. Choosing from among these excellent nominees thus was not simple. But after careful consideration, we ultimately agreed upon the winner, Merril Silverstein, who is presently the Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies at Syracuse University.

Across his illustrious career, and more than 150 publications, Professor Silverstein has employed a life course perspective on aging and family life, particularly in relation to intergenerational relations. Funded by such bodies as the National Institute on Aging, the National Science Foundation, and the John Templeton Foundation, his work has demonstrated not only that family members are important for wellbeing in old age, but he has made clear the importance of variations in kinds of social networks and modes of intergenerational relations, which influence the ways that resources are shared across generations. His high-impact scholarship has moved beyond the United States to such other countries as Sweden and the Netherlands; and he has added nuance and complexity to his work on intergenerational relationships by attending to ambivalence as well as change across time, policies, social contexts, and cultural practices. Given the legacy of Matilda White Riley, we would note the capacity of his research for improving the lives of elders.

Reflecting both the esteem with which his colleagues hold him, and his additional contributions to aging and the life course, Professor Silverstein has served in many important service capacities, including the Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section of The Gerontological Society of America, and as editor of the flagship journal, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences (from 2010-2014). In these roles, as well as through his commitment to graduate students’ training and expansion into international research, Professor Silverstein has been a leader in the field and is ensuring its continued growth. As his letter of nomination summarized, he “is a highly productive scholar, outstanding mentor, and dedicated colleague.” We are pleased to be able to award this recognition to him.

2019 Outstanding Mentor Award

Mark D. Hayward
Centennial Commission Professor in the Liberal Arts and
Faculty Research Associate of the Population Research Center at
University of Texas at Austin

2019 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Recipient

Merril Silverstein
Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies at Syracuse University

2019 Outstanding Mentor Award

Mark D. Hayward

Centennial Commission Professor in the Liberal Arts
and
Faculty Research Associate of the Population Research Center at
University of Texas at Austin
Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2019 in NYC

Mentoring Dinner

“Early Career Funding Mechanisms”

Mentoring dinner program presented by
Jennifer Ailshire (University of Southern California)
and
Jaqueline Angel (University of Texas at Austin)

Thank you to our Sponsors!

2019 SALC Reception and Mentoring Dinner

Individual Donors

Jacqueline & Ron Angel
Deborah Carr
Elizabeth Cooksey
Eileen Crimmins
Patricia Dentrea
David Ekerdt
Glen Elder & Sandy Turbeville
Madonna Harrington Meyer
Chris Himes
Ellen Idler
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Jeylan Mortimer
Richard Settersten
Jill Suitor
Debra Street
Miles Taylor
Judith Treas
Linda Waite

Organizational Donors

Boston University, Sociology Dept., (Deborah Carr)
Case Western Reserve University, Sociology Dept., (Dale Dannefer)
Florida State University, Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy, (Anne Barrett)
Northern Arizona University, Sociology Dept., (Yvonne Luna)
Purdue University, Center on Aging and the Life Course, (Ken Ferraro)
Syracuse University, Sociology Dept., Human Development and Family Science Dept., Aging Studies Institute (Prema Kurien, Ambika Krishnakumar, Janet Wilmoth)
University of Minnesota, Life Course Center, (Phyllis Moen)
University of Texas at Austin, Sociology Dept., Population Research Center, (Mark Hayward)

SALC Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes are available on the section webpage:

https://asasalc.org/council-meeting-minutes/

Highlight From Meeting Minutes:

Our section will provide $50 to ten students at the 2020 mentoring dinner to help offset their expenses in attending the conference.
Looking back at SALC Day ASA 2019 in NYC

Award Winners

2019 Outstanding Publication Award
Selection Committee: Anne Barrett (Chair), Heather Dillaway, Markus Schafer, Teresa Cooney

2019 Graduate Student Paper Award
Selection Committee: Patricia Dentrea (Chair), Twyla Hill, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk

Jielu Lin (University of Northern Arizona) & Jessica A. Kelley (Case Western Reserve University)

Laura Upenieks (University of Toronto)
“Religious Attendance and Physical Well-Being in Later Life: Integrating Life Course Models of Health”

Five Questions for Dawn C. Carr

Hometown?
Tempe, AZ

Proudest Accomplishment?
Ask me in 10 years — I’m still working on that!

Your first-ever job?
Free-lance classical trumpet player

A surprising fact about yourself?
I had hypnotherapy to help performance anxiety when I was a musician, which really helps me now when I have to get in front of a large group!

Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received?
Figure out your mission as a scholar/scientist, and use this mission to guide each step in your career, including publishing, grant writing, collaborations, and translational work. When opportunities present themselves, you should ask yourself if the opportunity supports your missions, and if it doesn’t, use your time and energy in a different way.

SALC Secretary-Treasurer
Dawn C. Carr
Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Affiliate of Pepper Institute on Aging & Public Policy at Florida State University
I am a PhD student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University (WVU). My research interests are in social determinants of health, particularly as they contribute to spatial disparities in health and mortality at various levels of residential location size (e.g., state, county) and type (e.g., rural, urban) within the United States. I am also interested in the role the built environment plays in these inequities and how all of these factors might contribute to health disparities among sexual minorities.

I have worked on projects examining spatial mortality disparities comparing black and white mortality rates by rural and urban counties (Social Science and Medicine – Population Health and the Social Science Journal) and overall mortality persistence by region (Demographic Research). Our research now includes a focus on “deaths of despair” (i.e., deaths from drugs, alcohol, and suicide) and how county-level social capital and educational attainment by state may be related to these deaths. In addition to these topics, we are exploring different spatial analyses regarding multiple sclerosis and county-level sociodemographics and health characteristics related to disc golf access.

I also collaborated on research analyzing changes in religious affiliation and sexual orientation identity (Sexuality & Culture and Archives of Sexual Behavior) as well as the use of mental health care among sexual orientation minorities (Journal of Homosexuality). Recently, I have begun examining self-rated health of sexual minorities by orientation identity, attraction, and behavior. My dissertation plans are to analyze existing data sources (e.g., Add Health, NSFG) that ask about health, sexual orientation, and contextual residential information to see if and how these social/physical environments may affect sexual minorities’ health behaviors and outcomes. I am also interested in how sexual minorities’ define health and how they prioritize aspects of their health, so I plan to supplement the empirical work by collecting qualitative data via interviews.

I am actively involved in several organizations such as our WVU Graduate Sociology Association (Vice President), the Southern Demographic Association (newsletter co-editor), the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science (mentoring roundtables co-coordinator), and the Section on Aging and the Life Course (webmaster). I enjoy volunteering outdoors at WVU’s Core Arboretum and am a CrossFit enthusiast. I am a grateful recipient of one of WVU’s University Provost Fellowships, which provides me the ability to be more active in research/publishing and nonprofit organizations.

I want to thank some of the many fantastic people who have helped me grow as a scholar—Dr. Jennifer Karas Montez whose class got me hooked on researching the social world, and who first suggested graduate school, allowing me to believe it was something I could do. She also introduced me to Dr. Eva Kahana who brought me on to her awesome research team where they enthusiastically showed me the ropes of research, encouraged my academic pursuits, and helped me prepare for graduate school. These experiences led me to where I am now—working with Dr. Lynne Cossman who has been an incredible mentor at WVU. Lynne has been guiding me through the ins and outs of graduate school and academia, supporting my goals, connecting me with many outstanding scholars in our field, and making sure I have access to helpful opportunities to further my career as a scholar. Thank you!
SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

SALC Mentoring Award

SALC has a rich legacy of mentoring students and junior faculty. We want to honor this history by recognizing SALC members who have distinguished themselves as mentors in the field of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee’s contributions to mentoring in the area of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. If multiple persons wish to nominate a person, we encourage co-signers on a single nomination letter. We also urge those preparing nomination letters to indicate where co-signers are working now and to think broadly about types of mentorship.

Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award honors 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. To nominate a colleague for the MWR Distinguished Scholar Award:

- Submit the name of nominee with brief justification to chair of the committee by December 1, 2019. The committee will then solicit supporting materials and/or evaluation letters.
- Submit a full nomination letter by March 1, 2020. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee’s contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. If multiple persons wish to nominate a person, we strongly encourage co-signers on a single nomination letter.

Nominations will be carried over for two years. Materials should be sent to Jennifer Karas Montez, Chair of the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Committee at jmontez@maxwell.syr.edu.

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, chapter, or book published within the past three years (from 2017-2019). A single author or one of the coauthors must be a SALC member. Multiple entries cannot be submitted by the same author(s); please choose the strongest entry. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations, but nominators should make only one nomination. Self-nominations are accepted. Papers that have been uploaded as Advance Access articles but have not yet been published, cannot be submitted until next year as they will have 2020 copyright dates.

Nominations of publications for the award should be sent to Andrea Willson, Chair of the Outstanding Publication Award Committee, at willson@uwo.ca. A nomination letter should accompany a PDF of the article or book. The letter should provide the full citation, describe the scope of the manuscript, and highlight some of its contributions to the field. All nominations are due by March 1, 2020.

Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors an outstanding paper written by a graduate student member(s) of SALC, as determined by the Graduate Student Paper Award committee. The award consists of $250 presented to the winner at the SALC Business Meeting, held during the annual ASA meeting.

Papers authored or coauthored solely by students are eligible; faculty co-authorship is not allowed. Eligible student authors include master’s and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program, or who have graduated no earlier than December 2019. 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 2020 may have been published anytime during 2018 or 2019). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9,000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc).

To be nominated, send an electronic version of the paper along with a completed and signed SALC Grad Student Paper Award Nomination Form to John Reynolds, Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, at john.reynolds@fsu.edu. All nominations are due by March 1, 2020, and self-nominations are encouraged.

Please submit names of your colleagues for these important forms of recognition. Self-nominations are also welcome. Recent winners can be found at: http://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/asa-sections/current-sections/aging-and-life-course/section-aging-and-life-course-past-award-recipients
News & Announcements

Section Member News & Publications

**Stacy Torres, Ph.D.**
Stacy Torres, assistant professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences, was awarded an Innovation on Research in Aging Bronze Award from Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging for her *Journal of Gerontology* article, *Aging Alone, Gossiping Together: Older Adults’ Talk as Social Glue*. A description of her research was featured in a report on the award winners that published July 2019.

**Publications:**


**Jennifer Karas Montez, Ph.D.**
Jennifer Karas Montez was awarded the 2019 Milbank Quarterly Early Career Award from the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science.

**Stephanie Ureña, Ph.D.**
Stephanie Ureña joined the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior in the Arnold School of Public Health at University of South Carolina as an Office for the Study of Aging Postdoctoral Research Fellow. She is also an affiliate of the Center on Health, Inequalities, and Populations.

**Anja Steinbach, Ph.D., Publications:**


News & Announcements

Special Issues

“Theoretical and Methodological Frontiers in Life Course Research”
Special Issue, Advances in Life Course Research (September 2019, Volume 41)
Edited by Laura Bernardi, Johannes Huinink, and Rick Settersten

What are the new frontiers in life course theories and methods? This special issue contains voices from around the world, and from sociology, psychology, demography, anthropology, economics, epidemiology, and other fields.

The issue is online now and in print. https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/advances-in-life-course-research/vol/41

Journal of Health and Social Behavior

Special Issue on “Medical Sociology: Findings, Challenges, and Future Directions”

Although Medical Sociology has made substantial contributions to our understanding of the social dimensions of health and health care, it is vital for the development of the field to critically reflect on our findings, challenges, and future directions. This special issue seeks to identify our key contributions to the sociological study of health, illness, and healing systems (since 2000), engage shortcomings of major research streams in Medical Sociology, and outline important and innovative directions for the field. This special issue seeks to answer the following questions about the state of the field: What have we learned since 2000? What topics have been emphasized? What questions have been addressed? What conclusions have been drawn? What have we missed? Which areas of research are underdeveloped or underappreciated? Which areas of research have stagnated? Have we overlooked or perpetuated inequalities in health? Where are we going? How should we define ourselves? What should we focus on? What should we re-focus on? What should we stop doing? How might the field innovate theoretically, methodologically, and substantively?

Submissions may include both conceptual and empirical manuscripts. Here are some potential topics:

- The criminal justice system and population health
- The integration of biology into social science research
- Emerging trends in U.S. morbidity and mortality
- Child development and the social construction/medicalization of mental illness
- Subjective experiences of health, illness, and/or disability
- Studies of health institutions or medical professions/professionals
- Applications of core sociological theories of inequality (e.g., critical race theory, feminist theory)
- Health measurement and other methodological issues

Submission Procedures | A short abstract (250 words) describing the paper’s goals should be submitted by December 15, 2019. Abstracts should be submitted via email to jhsb@fsu.edu. Please indicate that your submission is for the special issue in the subject line of your email. The Editors will identify abstracts of interest. Selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts (due August 1, 2020). Full manuscripts will be evaluated through the usual Journal of Health and Social Behavior peer review process. As such, publication is not guaranteed.

For more information on the special issue, please feel free to contact Amy Burdette (aburdette@fsu.edu) or the other special issue editors Michael McFarland (mmcfarland@fsu.edu), Miles Taylor (mtaylor3@fsu.edu), and Miranda Waggoner (mwaggoner@fsu.edu).

Special Issue Timeline | Abstract submission deadline: December 15, 2019
Invitations to submit full manuscripts: February 1, 2020 | Manuscript submission deadline: August 1, 2020

Journal Showcase

Journal of Health and Social Behavior (Sage) is a medical sociology journal that publishes empirical and theoretical articles that apply sociological concepts and methods to the understanding of health and illness and the organization of medicine and health care. Its editorial policy favors manuscripts that are grounded in important theoretical issues in medical sociology or the sociology of mental health and that advance theoretical understanding of the processes by which social factors and human health are inter-related. Impact Factor: 2.419
Call for Announcements

Submit your announcements, recent publications, and other news to be included in our next newsletter!

Announcements for the Winter newsletter should be emailed by February 2020 to co-editors Stephanie Ureña (surena@mailbox.sc.edu) & Shannon Shen (sshen@tamusa.edu)

You can peruse previous newsletters, read about your membership benefits, and more at our section website:

http://asasalc.org/

We are on Facebook!

Join our Facebook group to get engaged with the SALC community and be notified of the latest research, events, and job opportunities related to our section.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/SALC.ASA/

Section on Aging and the Life Course

Chair

Toni Calasanti
Virginia Tech
toni@vt.edu

Chair Elect

Jennifer Karas Montez
Syracuse University
jmontez@maxwell.syr.edu

Past Chair

Elizabeth Cooksey
Ohio State University
cooksey.1@osu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Dawn C. Carr
Florida State University
dccarr@fsu.edu

Student Members

Phillip Cantu (’20)
University of Texas
cantuphilip@utexas.edu

Catherine Garcia (’21)
University of Southern California
perezcat@usc.edu

Council

Richard Miech (’20)
University of Michigan
ramiech@umich.edu

Jennifer Ailshire (’20)
University of Southern California
ailshire@usc.edu

Patricia A. Thomas (’21)
Purdue University
pthomas4@purdue.edu

Mieke Beth Thomeer (’21)
University of Alabama at Birmingham
mthomeer@uab.edu

Jason Houle (’22)
Dartmouth University
jason.houle@dartmouth.edu

Amélie Quesnel-Vallée (’22)
McGill University
amelie.quesnelvallee@mcgill.ca

Membership & Comm. Officers

Miles G. Taylor
Membership Chair
Florida State University
mtaylor3@fsu.edu

Stephanie Ureña
Newsletter editor
University of South Carolina
surena@mailbox.sc.edu

Shannon Shen
Newsletter editor
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
sshen@tamusa.edu

Julia Kay Wolf
Section Web Manager
West Virginia University
jkwolf@mix.wvu.edu

Stacy Torres
Listserv editor
University of California, San Francisco
stacy.torres@ucsf.edu

Jeffrey Lentz
Facebook Manager
University of North Georgia-Gainesville
Jeffrey.lentz@ung.edu

Duygu Basaran
Twitter Manager
Graduate Center – CUNY
dbasaran_sahin@gc.cuny.edu