Dear SALT Colleagues:

I write to you from the cold but fascinating city of Toronto, where I am spending the spring semester.

**Conference news**

Given the difference in weather between now and August, I am sure that the ASA meetings seem far off, but I want to give you a heads-up on how things are shaping up for SALT. Section day is Saturday, August 8; so, mark your calendars! In addition to the two SALT sessions, organized by Jessica Kelley and Rick Settersten, there will be two regular sessions that are of interest to our members: one on aging, and one on life course. Our next newsletter will contain more detailed information on all of these sessions.

We also will hold our annual mentoring dinner on August 8, an event of which we can rightly be proud. I provide more information about the dinner below, but take a moment first to apprise you of a couple of challenges facing us.

San Francisco is extremely expensive, and planning the dinner affordably in such a location is impossible, even for someone with Janet Wilmoth’s inimitable skills and experience. As a result, we will rely heavily on SALT members’ donations to offset the increased costs. We will provide more details about making a donation when fundraising starts in April.

**The professional gets personal**

The other challenge before us is an issue near and dear to my heart, one that blurs the line between personal and professional. The two sessions that SALT sponsors this year reflect my concerns with inequalities—not only those that play out over the life course, but also age inequality, in which old age itself is a disadvantaged status. Sociologists seem to take it for granted that ageism is real; but the small size of the literature on it suggests that we find it unimportant. Those of us concerned with this inequality chafe at the neglect. We know that the specter of being seen as “old” shapes all of our lives, and that we all face subordination by age should we live long enough.

The reality of ageism has been brought home to me in a new way by my mother’s recent and needless death. She died of a mundane infection just prior the holidays and what would have been her 96th birthday. Many who read this may think, “96?! She lived a long life. Why are you concerned?” My gut-level response to that aside, I assume that we all hope to die good deaths, however we define those; and certainly do not wish to die of neglect borne of ageism. My mother died of an easily curable infection that, through the carelessness of medical personnel, went untreated. Over the last several years, each and every doctor (other than her own PCP) literally referred to her in terms of her age and treated her on those grounds first, rather than according to indicators of her health, which was excellent in many respects. She had defied simplistic age expectations for years. At age 94, she broke her arm and damaged the radial nerve, losing the use of her (dominant) right hand. Doctors said that nerve regeneration would only occur in someone much younger, and denied referral to a specialist for the nerve damage. Within three months, she had regained the use of her hand and arm on her own, in what doctors then termed “a miracle.”

(continued on page 2)
News from the Chair, continued from page 1

When she was in her 80s, doctors often minimized complaints of pain with such comments as, "What do you expect? You are 82." But when she turned 90, ageism by physicians and nurses ramped up. As those who study aging know, these zero-decade markers matter, perhaps even more than we realize. Research just published in the New England Journal of Medicine finds that those just two weeks over the age of 80 were less likely to receive bypass surgery after a heart attack than those just two weeks shy of that birthday (https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1911289). Crossing the next zero threshold (90) appears to have been a deciding factor in much of my mother’s recent treatment. When she died, after having surprised doctors by passing all tests with flying colors a few days prior, and before I learned that her infection had not been treated, I demanded to know what had happened. The emergency room doctor told me that she had “died of old age.”

I share this grim, personal story as my call, to sociology as a field, to take seriously this form of inequality. It does and will shape your life, now and down the road, and may affect your death as well. If we wait until we are old to protest, odds are good that we will be ignored, just as we ignore old people today.

Toni Calasanti,
Chair, Section on Aging and the Life Course

2020 SALC Program
Section Day: Saturday, August 8

Open Session: Age Matters: Explorations of Age Categories in Social Life
   Organized by: Richard A. Settersten, Jr., Oregon State University

Open Session: Diversity or Disadvantage? Interrogating How Social Inequality Shapes Life Course(s)
   Organized by: Jessica Kelley, Case Western Reserve University

Roundtables: Standard Roundtable Sessions
   Research Working Group Roundtables
   Organized by: Jason Houle, Dartmouth College; Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, McGill University

POWER, INEQUALITY AND RESISTANCE AT WORK

115th ASA Annual Meeting • August 8-11, 2020
San Francisco, CA
Save the Date for the 2020 SALC Mentoring Dinner!
The annual mentoring event includes dinner, a program, and the chance for graduate students to engage with section professors. This year's dinner will be held on SALC Section Day, **Saturday August 8, from 6:30-8:30 pm** at John’s Grill, which is located near the conference hotels at 63 Ellis St, San Francisco, CA 94102. Take note that seating is limited to 110 guests and tickets must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase tickets will be distributed in June. Janet Wilmoth, Phillip Cantu, and Catherine Garcia are working on an exciting program, so stay tuned for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

SALC is Seeking a Volunteer to be the next Book Raffle Organizer!
The tasks of Book Raffle Organizer are to: 1) organize book and Kindle donations in advance of the ASA meeting, 2) work with the SALC leaders to decide if the raffle should be held at the SALC dinner or the Business Meeting (depending on the timing of these each year), 3) print raffle tickets to bring to ASA, 4) attend the SALC business meeting and dinner to sell raffle tickets, 5) conduct the raffle, 6) assist winners of the raffle in receiving their books and/or Kindles after the raffle, and 7) tally and collect all funds in cash/Venmo/Paypal to deliver to the section.

*The former organizer of the SALC Book Raffle (Christine Mair) will be available to advise on each step of this process, but cannot attend ASA in person this year.*
Candidates for 2020 SALC Officers

The Nominating Committee of the Section on Aging and the Life Course has released its slate of candidates.

Candidates for Chair Elect

Anne Barrett

Present Position: Professor of Sociology, Florida State University; Director, Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy

Education: Postdoctoral fellowship, Rutgers; The State University of New Jersey; Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research

Ph.D., Duke University

M.A., Duke University

Positions Held in ASA:

Section on Aging and the Life Course: Chair of Outstanding Publications

Publication Committee, 2018-2019; Secretary-Treasurer and Council Member, 2007-2010. Section on Medical Sociology: Nominations Chair, 2009-2011; Dissertation Award Committee Member, 2000; Editorial Board Member, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2011-2013

Publications:


Personal Statement: For more than two decades, our section has provided an intellectual home for me – introducing me to established and rising scholars of the sociology of age and aging and providing a place for me to test and develop ideas. I’d welcome the opportunity to lead the section and, I hope, to provide to new and long-term section members some of these same benefits. I’d bring to the position prior experience on SALC Council, serving as Secretary-Treasurer and Council Member from 2007 to 2010, as well as experience as Chair of the Outstanding Publications Committee from 2018 to 2019. I’ve also been involved with the Gerontological Society of America, serving as the Behavioral and Social Sciences Membership Chair of the from 2012 to 2015 and Chair of the Women’s Issues in Gerontology Committee from 2016 to 2018. As SALC Chair-Elect, I’d seek to maximize what we do best: mentoring, facilitating cross-area research, and building on our rich history of cutting-edge research spanning the life course. In particular, I’d focus on creating programming that reflects the field’s diverse theoretical and methodological traditions.

Merril Silverstein

Present Position: Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies, Sociology, Syracuse University

Education: PhD, Columbia University, 1990

MSW, Columbia University 1978

BA, Queens College, 1975

Positions Held in ASA:

Session Organizer, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2016; Distinguished Scholar Award Committee, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2008; Student Paper Award Committee, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2007; Council Member, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2004-2006

Publications:


Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated to serve as Chair of the Section on Aging and the Life Course. SALC has been a key part of my professional identity as a sociologist over the length of my career. In addition to providing the space to share research and exchange ideas, SALC has been an important venue for early career scholars to engage with more senior scholars, particularly at the mentoring dinner. I would like to explore new ways of engaging SALC members and expanding membership. Flash sessions will likely be continued and expanded, as will joint sessions with other Sections. Sessions of benefit to early career scholars such as publishing and job search workshops, and sessions honoring luminaries in the field are options I will explore. As Chair, I would look forward to being steward of the rich legacy of SALC and both widen and deepen its reach.
Candidates for Council
There are four candidates for two slots on the Council. The 3-year term begins in 2020.

Scott Landes
Present Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology and Faculty Associate, Aging Studies Institute, Syracuse University
Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the SALC Council. One of the highlights of ASA for me each year is the opportunity to see old and new friends at the SALC mentoring dinner and paper sessions. These are consistently the most engaging and rewarding experiences I have at ASA as I have found SALC section members highly welcoming and eager to offer sage mentoring advice. My research focuses on life course health and mortality trends for adults with developmental disability, and with veterans, as well as the interplay of human agency and linked lives. While I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve in other ASA sections, because the intellectual and personal benefit I have received from my involvement in the SALC section has been so important in my career, I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to serve on the SALC council and give back to this section.

Marc Garcia
Present Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Institute of Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Personal Statement: It is an honor to be nominated to serve as a SALC Council member. My current research focuses on how distinctive sociocultural factors linked to nativity status, country of origin, and immigrant experiences associated with adaptation and incorporation account for heterogeneous outcomes in morbidity, disability, cognitive functioning, and mortality among older U.S. Latinos. Having benefited tremendously from mentorship, networking, and collaborations with numerous section members, I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the continued success and future growth of SALC through participation as a member of Council.

Bridget Goosby
Present Position: Professor of Sociology, Population Research Center Faculty Affiliate, Co-Director of Life in Frequencies Health Disparities (LifeHD) Research Lab, University of Texas at Austin
Personal Statement: It is an honor to be nominated for the SALC Council. I specialize in identifying biosocial pathways linking racial discrimination and other forms of social marginalization to inequities in health over the life course and across generations. My current work in this area integrates biological markers and biometric technology to dynamically examine how inequality gets under the skin to impact health and chronic disease risk in targeted groups. I am a long-time member of the SALC, which is comprised of a welcoming, intellectually curious community, with members of whom have been my mentors, collaborators, and provided intellectual inspiration for me over the years. I hope to pay these gifts forward and contribute the ongoing success of the SALC.

Stephanie Ureña
Present Position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of South Carolina
Personal Statement: The possibility of serving as SALC Council Member is exciting to me because I want to continue investing in our section and its members. I joined the section as a graduate student thanks to the mentorship and encouragement of Miles Taylor. I went on to serve as Student Council Member from 2017-2019 and currently serve as Newsletter Co-Editor. Learning how to edit the newsletter from Kristen Schultz Lee, collaborating with Shannon Shen on content, and coordinating information with section Chairs has been informative and fun, while planning and hosting mentoring dinners alongside Janet Wilmoth, Rebecca Wang (2018) and Phillip Cantu (2019) are highlights of my time in SALC. I would be honored to serve on the council and to help plan future conference programs and promote long-term section growth and inclusivity.
Nominees for SALC Student Representative

**Chrisse Edmunds**
**Present Position:** Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at The Ohio State University  
**Personal Statement:**  
I am a PhD candidate in Sociology at The Ohio State University. I have a Master’s Degree in Sociology and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Brigham Young University. My research interests include stratification, insecurity, debt, poverty, aging, and caregiving. I am particularly interested in how parental financial security influences the financial security of their aging children, especially when those children become caregivers to their parents. My research has focused on how hardship and insecurity influence individuals throughout their life course. In collaborative work with colleagues in Public Policy, Economics, and Consumer Sciences, I explore how housing debt influences financial stress and food insecurity for older adults. In my dissertation, I use data from the Health and Retirement Study to examine how caring for parents influences the financial hardship and debt levels of their children who provide care. I also have a qualitative research project where I interview parental caregivers about their financial hardship and how they think it will affect their long-term financial situation.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve as the SALC student representative. This section has so much to offer students. I would like to help student members increase their involvement by facilitating opportunities for them to connect with mentors, engage in meaningful dialogues, and expand their research interests. In my department, I previously served as the President of the Sociology Graduate Student Association. One of the key contributions I made during this time was redesigning the mentoring program to better match graduate student mentoring pairs and help new students understand the resources and expertise available to them. Connecting with colleagues outside your own institution can be difficult as a student, but this section provides valuable opportunities to make connections with other scholars in the aging and life course field. I believe that my passion, enthusiasm, and experience make me well-suited to represent students and help them feel more involved in this section. I would be privileged to serve as a student representative on the SALC council!

**Jing Geng**
**Present Position:** Ph.D. Student in Sociology at Virginia Tech  
**Personal Statement:**  
I am a doctoral student in Sociology at Virginia Tech and my research centers on how gender shapes the experiences of widowed elders. Prior to beginning my graduate studies in Sociology, I worked as a journalist for twelve years in China, which allowed me to see how society was changing, especially as we enter the era of an aging society, and public concern about how China will deal with the population shift. This journalistic experience laid the groundwork for my interest in the field of aging. Exploring this issue in the context of America has helped me develop a transnational perspective on aging. Comparing population aging between the U.S. and China is illuminating, given that they represent western and eastern contexts, and share many commonalities but also some differences.

At Virginia Tech, I have worked as a graduate assistant for the last 3 years, earning my Master’s degree in 2019. I also received the AARP Virginia Tech Memorial Fund for Gerontology Award. To gain more practical experience in the field of aging, I volunteer at Virginia Tech Adult Day Services by assisting the participants, most of whom have dementia, in engaging in group activities, which enables me to have a direct impact on their lives. For my dissertation, I plan to combine analyses of the Health and Retirement Study with in-depth interviews to explore gender differences in widowhood experiences. I will use a feminist gerontological framework that examines how the gender division of labor frames the identities, opportunities, skills, and resources of men and women, thus contributing to their different experiences and pathways to well-being after the deaths of their spouses.

I’m honored to have the opportunity to serve as a SALC student representative. In that capacity, I would work to encourage young scholars to dive deeper into the field of aging and the life course and contribute their research to our sessions. In particular, I will promote increased opportunities for racial and ethnic minority students to integrate their unique perspectives into the SALC discourse. They have much to offer our section by contributing diverse views that are rooted in their own social and cultural backgrounds. Finally, I would like to involve more students in the annual mentoring dinner and solicit their input concerning topics that they feel will enhance our professional growth.

Podcast Showcase

**The Shape of Care: A Podcast about Caregiving**

The Shape of Care was created by host Mindy Fried, M.S.W., Ph.D., a sociologist with 30 years of experience conducting research, teaching, and conducting policy analysis on organizational and workplace issues. The podcast explores the world of caregiving through storytelling and information-sharing. Recent topics include homophobia in elder care and coping with Alzheimer’s Disease. The podcast is available on all popular services (e.g., Apple, Stitcher, Spotify). Visit the website for more information: [http://theshapeofcare.org/](http://theshapeofcare.org/)
I am a PhD candidate in epidemiology at McGill University. My research interests include the life course pathways to mental health, health care access, political epidemiology and Indigenous health. As a social epidemiologist, my work is guided by structural determinants and life course frameworks to understand the formation and maintenance of social gradients and health distributions.

My dissertation examines the association between childhood adversity and depression, and its associated pathways, with an emphasis on the broader social context. I examine these pathways in Canada, both in the general population and the Indigenous population, using two nationally representative datasets. Currently, my second line of research is exploring determinants and social inequalities in health care access, specifically unmet needs and forgone care due to cost.

Using the longitudinal National Population Health Survey (NPHS) linked to tax filing data, I am exploring the stress-sensitivity pathway to depression and the mediating potential of education, income and use of income protection programs in the development of the childhood adversity-depression association. Influenced by causal inference methodologies, I utilize marginal structural models with inverse probability of treatment and censoring weights and mediation decomposition analysis to account for the complex time-varying nature of confounding in these associations and to fully exploit the rich longitudinal data available.

The Indigenous population warrants special consideration due to a high risk of depression and a history of childhood adversity caused by government-mandated residential schooling at institutions now known to be characterised by systematic abuse and neglect. I have conducted a mixed studies systematic review on the impact of residential schooling on physical and mental health among Indigenous Peoples in Canada, Australia and the United States. I find a strong direct and intergenerational association between attendance at the residential school and negative health outcomes. This review highlighted that an empirical understanding of how this association manifests has rarely been explored. As part of my dissertation, I assessed one potential pathway between residential school and adult mental health, and I find that residential schooling constitutes an instance of early life adversity, generating a stress-sensitization response. It is my aim that this research will contribute to the growing understanding of the mechanisms that lead to depression, with the overarching goal of preventing the harmful health and social effects of childhood adversity through the identification of potential intervention points.

My doctoral training has been supported by a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, a David G. Guthrie Fellowship from the McGill University Department of Medicine and Entrance and Emerging Scholars Award from the Canadian Research Data Centre Network.

I have had the good fortune of being supervised by Dr. Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, who has been inspirational and deeply supportive of my journey to find my research voice. She has encouraged me to follow my passions, giving me the opportunity to develop a project that is an intersection my diverse research interests, skills and previous experience and knowledge. The development of my current research program has been influenced by a number of experiences; 1) my work as a public health epidemiologist focusing on child health, highlighting the important of early years on health throughout the life course; 2) my volunteer experiences and my MSc training in epidemiology working with Indigenous populations; 3) researching the relationship between health inequalities and health insurance and system factors with Dr. Quesnel-Vallée, which motivated my interest in structural determinants of health; and 4) my undergraduate research experiences focusing on mental health system development.

Outside my research I am hobby beekeeper with two hives (just enough to produce honey for my family and friends and the occasional Pooh Bear), and love to cook and ski.
Five Questions for Jason Houle & Amélie Quesnel-Vallée

Hometown? Montréal QC, Canada
Proudest Accomplishment? I am helping raise an amazing human being: thoughtful, caring, and proudly carving her own path. I try to bring that sense of wonder about potentiality to my teaching as well, and I feel so incredibly grateful when I receive random acknowledgements from previous students that speak to the impact my teaching has had on their thinking and their career choices.
Your first-ever job? The first one with a formal pay stub (i.e. aside from babysitting): pool lifeguard.
A surprising fact about yourself? When I started university, I told a mentor (a quantitative sociology professor) that quantitative sociology was really not my thing! I had had an AP statistics course before, but it was taught very theoretically and hadn’t shown the applied potential of statistics that really captivated me when it was taught by a sociology professor during my first year of undergrad. Two years later, I was a teaching assistant for the advanced statistics class in sociology and I haven’t looked back since.
Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received? Pause to acknowledge and celebrate the small(er) successes along the way (submitting a paper, feeling elated after teaching a particularly engaged class…) because disappointment abounds (you know it – analyses that don’t pan out, papers rejections…). This is important from a cognitive standpoint, because we tend to habituate to the positive states and amplify the negative. Furthermore, the big wins are rare so holding out only for them can feel like a losing battle against the more numerous little disappointments, so rejoicing in the little milestones or simply the happier moments of our day-to-day professional life can help us balance things out.

Hometown? Hartford, Maine (population 963)
Proudest Accomplishment? Successfully navigating/surviving the Sierra Nevada Backcountry and making it to the Kaweah Basin
Your first-ever job? Working as a farmhand on a dairy farm
A surprising fact about yourself? I lost my front tooth in a freak playground accident when I was 10
Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received? Don’t let your ego get in the way of good, critical feedback.

News & Announcements

Section Member Publications


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Section Member Publications

**Overload: How Good Jobs Went Bad and What We Can Do About It**

Erin L. Kelly and Phyllis Moen
Princeton University Press

Today’s ways of working are not working—even for professionals in “good” jobs. Responding to global competition and pressure from financial markets, companies are asking employees to do more with less, even as new technologies normalize 24/7 job expectations. In Overload, Erin Kelly and Phyllis Moen document how this new intensification of work creates chronic stress, leading to burnout, attrition, and underperformance. “Flexible” work policies and corporate lip service about “work-life balance” don’t come close to fixing the problem. But this unhealthy and unsustainable situation can be changed—and Overload shows how.

Drawing on five years of research, including hundreds of interviews with employees and managers, Kelly and Moen tell the story of a major experiment that they helped design and implement at a Fortune 500 firm. The company adopted creative and practical work redesigns that gave workers more control over how and where they worked and encouraged managers to evaluate performance in new ways. The result? Employees’ health, well-being, and ability to manage their personal and work lives improved, while the company benefited from higher job satisfaction and lower turnover. And, as Kelly and Moen show, such changes can—and should—be made on a wide scale.

[https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691179179/overload](https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691179179/overload)


**Precarity and Ageing: Understanding Risk and Insecurity in Later Life**

Edited by Amanda Grenier, Chris Phillipson, and Richard A. Settersten Jr
Bristol: Policy Press, January 2020

What risks and insecurities do older people face in a time of both increased longevity and widening inequality? This edited collection develops an exciting new approach to understanding the changing cultural, economic and social circumstances facing different groups of older people. Exploring a range of topics, the chapters provide a critical review of the concept of precarity, highlighting the experiences of ageing that occur within the context of societal changes tied to declining social protection. Drawing together insights from leading voices across a range of disciplines, the book underscores the pressing need to address inequality across the life course and into later life.

[https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/precarity-and-ageing](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/precarity-and-ageing)

Call for Announcements

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

Announcements for the Summer newsletter should be emailed by June 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/

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