

**2020 Council Meeting Reports**  
**Section on Aging and Life Course**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Section on Aging and the Life Course continues to be in good financial shape. Our beginning balance for this year was \$28,197. Our current balance is \$30,526 (as of July 2020). (for context, last year our pre-meeting balance was \$33,166). Because we did not have an in-person annual meeting, and we also did not have the mentoring dinner, we should not expect this balance to change much. Our total income year-to-date includes: \$563 (dues), \$560 (other income), and \$2,206 (section budget allocation) with a total of \$3,329. We requested \$1000 each to be donated to the Black Lives Matter movement and the ASA minority fellowship program. Currently only \$1000 has been officially withdrawn from our account. We discussed the (approximately) \$1000 remaining in income for this year be dedicated to bolster the start of a new initiative to promote diversity within SALC. This will be a topic of conversation for further discussion as we work together to develop a plan for this endeavor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Program Committee Report**

**Chair:** Toni Calasanti

Program committee: Rick Settersten, Oregon State University and Jessica Kelley, Case Western Reserve; plus research group and roundtable committee, Jason Houle and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée (see their report, below)

The final schedule for the Virtual Meeting is listed below:

**Friday, August 7, 2020**

12:00 to 1:00pm PDT (3:00 to 4:00pm EDT)

Council Meeting

1:00 to 1:30pm PDT (4:00 to 4:30pm EDT)

Virtual Mentoring Event

**Saturday, August 8, 2020**

8:30 to 10:10am PDT (11:30am to 1:10pm EDT)

Age Matters: Explorations of Age Categories in Social Life; organizer, Rick Settersten

10:30am to 12:10pm PDT (1:30 to 3:10pm EDT)

Diversity or Disadvantage? Interrogating How Social Inequality Shapes Life Course(s); organizer, Jessica Kelley

2:30 to 4:10pm PDT (5:30 to 7:10pm EDT)

Roundtables; organizers, Jason Houle and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée

Table 1: Social Networks and Relationships

Table 2: Families, Households, and Living Arrangements

Table 3: Mental and Physical Health in Later Life I

Table 4: Mental and Physical Health in Later Life II

Table 5: Health and Well-Being Across the Life Course

Table 6: Research Working Group: Early Adversity and Adult Outcomes: Unanswered

Table 7: Strain, Stress, and Overload (pre-recorded)

### **Business Meeting**

4:30 to 6:10pm PDT (7:30 to 9:10pm EDT)

### **Friday, September 11**

Post-ASA SALC Virtual Meeting

3:30-5:30 PDT (6:30-8:30 EST)

### **Book Raffle Committee:**

Report: There is currently no one who has taken over this position and we need a volunteer willing to take on this important SALC role.

### **Membership Committee: Miles Taylor**

Last year we fell short of our standard 600 membership number (end of September showed 578 members) and were not able to negotiate with ASA to get our regular session allotment. This year, as of the end of July, our section had 483 members as opposed to 555 at that time in 2019. With no in-person meeting ASA membership has been hit across the board (to my understanding), and many people are struggling with financial and job insecurity challenges. We sent out a very standard email about gift memberships in the spring and also last month, but the gifting campaign was not aggressive this year given COVID and the overall economic situation. To my understanding, all sections will be issued sessions this fall (for ASA 2021) based on last year's membership numbers (membership counts will be "frozen" at 2019). Although we will be reduced this year like most sections, we still will not have the 600 we need for our usual number of sections.

My discussions with Mark Fernando suggest that gifting was up last year. This means that the gifting campaign was somewhat successful and especially for students, but it was not enough to offset dwindling section membership over the last 5 years. I continue to be in contact with membership chairs for other sections and the ASA leadership (where applicable) for membership boosting strategies and to reiterate that membership quotas for sessions have not been altered even though the general trends in ASA membership are steadily declining.

These discussions on session allocation are not likely to be a top priority for ASA given the lack of an in-person meeting this year and the concern over general membership and the future of ASA. I will continue to engage with leadership and get information where I can.

## **Communications:**

### **Newsletter Co-Editors, Stephanie Ureña & Shannon Shen**

During the **2019-2020** academic year, Shannon Shen (Texas A&M University - San Antonio) and Stephanie Ureña (University of South Carolina) continued to serve as newsletter co-editors. The Fall, Winter, and Summer newsletters were published and distributed via the SALC email listserv, the section website, and announced on the section Facebook and Twitter pages. Official SALC announcements were published in each newsletter. Announcements for conferences, workshops, calls for papers, promotion or employment changes, recent publications, special lectures, and awards were also included when submitted by members. Three recurring columns were included in each newsletter: Five Questions..., Emerging Scholars Profile, and Journal or Podcast Spotlight. The “Five Questions” column profiles a section member by asking them to answer five questions about their hometown, proudest accomplishment, first job, a surprising fact about themselves, and the best piece of professional advice they have received. The “Emerging Scholars Profile” highlights the research and career goals of emerging scholars in the section. The “Journal Spotlight” introduces journals that might be appropriate venues for section members’ work and now highlights relevant podcasts.

The co-editors collaborate electronically, so the pandemic did not affect the overall process of creating the newsletter. What was different for the Summer 2020 letter was the timeline for publication. Since the virtual conference and SALC day activities took more time to finalize, the newsletter was published at the end of July; however, this was not a problem as pertinent information was still available to SALC members before the virtual ASA conference.

Moving forward, the co-editors do not believe much will need to change due to the virtual nature of most academic activities during the pandemic, since the newsletter is an entirely electronic collaboration. We do anticipate including announcements for more virtual events in the coming newsletters.

During the 2019 council meeting, members discussed challenges in getting more information about emerging scholars to be highlighted in the newsletters. The co-editors continue to rely on the SALC chair to identify the emerging scholars.

Shannon and Stephanie enjoyed collaborating on the newsletter and still find the two-editor system to be very efficient. They took turns taking the lead on each newsletter and collaborated with section Chair, Toni Calasanti, and other council members to ensure all information was accurate and complete before distribution. They look forward to continuing as co-editors for the **2020-2021** academic year.

### **Section Website Manager, Julia Wolf**

The section website is used by the section to post newsletters, announcements about SALC or the ASA annual meeting, and information about the section. It has also been used to advertise job and training opportunities in the past, but I haven’t had any such information to post.

- In 2019 there were 2,006 views by 784 visitors.
- Since January 2020 there have been 1,173 views by 507 visitors.

- Dawn Carr is now an admin on the website to pay for it this year (she will be reimbursed; \$18/year)
- Changes I made since I took over in September 2019:
  - New theme format
  - Made the Officers page public
    - We have a Former Officers page that is still private—can make public if we want
  - Updated information on most pages
  - Created “Previous Award Winners” page and “2020 ASA Virtual Meeting Updates” page
  - Added/removed announcements as necessary
  - Worked with ASA to update the SALC awards section on their [website](#)
    - Can contact them about [recently elected section leadership](#) updates too

***Listserv Editor, Stacy Torres***

During the 2019-2020 academic year, regular listserv announcements were distributed to SALC members (with current ASA dues) on a roughly twice monthly schedule, depending on the number of announcements at any one time. The twice-monthly distribution has been the long-standing practice of the Section to limit the number of electronic messages members receive. With the SALC Facebook and Twitter accounts, members also have the opportunity to receive announcements “on demand,” and I have also suggested to those sending time-sensitive announcements to also contact SALC Facebook.

Each announcement contained both (1) official Section business and (2) other announcements of interest submitted by members, including: jobs, conferences, journal invitations, and new books by section members. Section Chair Toni Calasanti and other officers also regularly forwarded time-sensitive standalone announcements and miscellaneous items from ASA and elsewhere for inclusion in the announcements. The Section’s electronic newsletter was distributed by the listserv as well. All section-generated listserv announcements included a header with the link to the SALC website, Facebook and Twitter profiles. ASA-generated announcements (relevant job-bank ads, media inquiries) are also distributed via the listserv.

Inquiries from members (e.g., items for newsletter, announcement of publications, etc.) sent to the Listserv Editor were forwarded to the appropriate member of the Section leadership, as needed. One recommendation for the future would be to better clarify for members the types of announcements appropriate for the listserv versus the newsletter, as I receive many announcements for articles, etc. Additionally, people often send PDF announcements which are a little more cumbersome to extract text from for the emailed announcements (I received instructions upon taking on this role that the only attachment to include is the newsletter). I also receive a lot of general questions about specific announcements, even when the point person’s contact info is listed in the announcement. But there may be no way to correct this if members don’t closely read the announcements and believe I am the de facto point person (in which I have set them on the right path again, urging them to contact the person attached to the announcement).

### **Facebook Manager, Jeffrey Lentz**

As of July 28, 2020, we have 960 members in the Facebook group.

The membership question still stands. I continue to receive bizarre requests, and those who do not answer the membership question are rejected. Please tell your colleagues and students to fill out the membership question. Please invite your colleagues and students to join the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SALC.ASA/>

I continue to encourage members to share their research, job searches, conference/webinar announcements, and any other news about aging and the life course related information. Stacy Torres does an excellent job emailing me her publications, op-eds, etc. to post in the group. I've only had a handful of other emails or Facebook messages to post information. I encourage members to continue to email me information so that I can post it ([Jeffrey.lentz@ung.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.lentz@ung.edu) is the preferable method). I sometimes don't get Facebook messages because we are not friends on Facebook.

I pin essential announcements to the top of the page, so everyone has a chance to read and/or respond to the request. I continue to post relevant sections of SALC announcements to the group so everyone can be informed. Question: does the council want me to create Facebook events for webinars/meetings/etc.? If the answer is yes, I would need at least two weeks to a month to create the event and send the invites.

I will continue to be the SALC Facebook Manager.

### **Twitter Manager, Duygu Basaran Sahin**

For those of you who don't know I'd like to start with the history of SALC's Twitter Account. Duygu (Doi-goo) a Ph.D. student in the sociology department and a former demography fellow at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, created SALC's Twitter account in September 2014 and still manages it. Our account name is ASA\_SALC.

SALC's Twitter account mainly serves as another social medium to share information about our section, news from our members, articles on the life course and aging, call for papers etc. In the summer of 2015 we had 84 followers. Today we have 438 followers.

I want to thank those who post on SALC's FB page. I often repost these articles and news on Twitter. This helps SALC to have a consistent social media presence. SALC's Twitter engagement is improving but we can always do better. The first step is to make sure that people know SALC exists on Twitter. Especially because this year's ASA is virtual it would be great if you send a tweet mentioning ASA\_SALC with the information for your session (time and topic) so I can retweet. I already tweeted the link to the Summer newsletter which has the virtual ASA program. Hopefully this will help increase the participation to virtual SALC sessions. You can also do the following to increase social media engagement.

- Include SALC's Twitter info as "follow us on Twitter @ASA\_SALC" on your school or personal websites
- Add "follow us on Twitter @ASA\_SALC" at the end of your power point presentations or any other form of presentation/talks
- Mention SALC's Twitter account in your classes

- Spread the news among your friends/colleagues
- If you're already on Twitter mention SALC's Twitter account when you share relevant news/links/papers/call for papers

Please do not hesitate to send Duygu an email at [dbasaransahin@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:dbasaransahin@gradcenter.cuny.edu) if you have questions or suggestions about how to improve SALC's social media presence.

**Committee on Professional Development and Mentoring Report: Janet Wilmoth (chair)**

Other Committee members: Phillip Cantu, Catherine Garcia

The Professional Development and Mentoring Committee primarily plans and hosts the mentoring dinner at the annual meeting. This year we identified John's Grill as the venue, which we have used in the past for the mentoring dinner. We worked with their very accommodating events manager and our helpful ASA support person to finalize the contract. It is noteworthy, for future reference, that we had a very difficult time finding a venue that would be within our typical budget due to very high minimum charge requirements at all of the restaurants we contacted. We try to keep the cost of the event below \$8000 but this year the lowest minimum guarantee we could negotiate was \$10,000. The SALC treasurer has increased in recent years given we have been very successful with fundraising, we no longer hold a reception associated with the MWR lecture, and last year's event had approximately \$2400 in revenue due to lower than expected costs associated with using a Syracuse University facility for the dinner in NYC. Several years ago, the SALC council approved using treasury funds, if necessary, to cover the cost of events in cities where costs are higher. Given this, we proceeded with scheduling the event as planned. However, due to the shift to a virtual meeting, we had to cancel the contract. We were able to do this without any cancellation fees. We also did not start our annual fundraising campaign, given we are not be holding an in-person event.

The student representatives requested that we consider planning alternative mentoring events. They surveyed the SALC student members to gather ideas for the format of these events and assess level of interest. Consequently, they have scheduled a series of virtual Zoom meetings designed to provide the student members with an opportunity to interact with regular members. Three initial meetings have been planned (shown below) and additional meetings may be scheduled during the academic year.

Friday July 10 - SALC Pre-ASA Happy Hour

5:30-7:30 EDT / 2:30 – 4:30 PDT

Prior to ASA, we held an informal happy hour for students and more senior researchers to familiarize themselves with virtual networking. The 5:30-7:30 EST time slot enabled members in different time zones can drop in for at least part of the meeting. The goal of the event was to generate excitement from members of the SALC community to network informally and to get comfortable with virtual meetings prior to ASA. This also served as a test run so that we can modify our platform as needed moving forward. The event was a success, with 25 people participating in the Zoom session. The participants were roughly evenly split between students and regular members.

Friday August 7 - SALC ASA Mentoring Event

4:00 – 4:30 EDT / 1:00 – 1:30 PDT

The second virtual meeting will take place during ASA virtual meeting and more closely resemble a traditional after dinner program. It will feature a short program on "Navigating the Job Market During the COVID-19 Pandemic," with speaker Dr. Jennifer A. Ailshire from the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. She will speak for approximately 10 minutes and then there will be a Q&A session in which students and regular members will be encouraged to share their insights.

Friday September 11 - SALC Post ASA Happy Hour  
6:30-8:30 EDT / 3:30 – 4:30 PDT

The final virtual meeting will be to discuss what worked and what did not work for virtual mentoring and give students another opportunity to have facetime with SALC members. We will also discuss whether the group wants to continue meeting virtually during the academic year. The later time slot is an attempt to be equitable to members on the west coast.

**Research Groups and Roundtables Committee: Amelie Quesnel-Vallee and Jason Houle**

We initially organized 15 roundtables (11 "regular" and 4 research groups), which counted more than 82 participants (this counts all co-authors, but is understating the research groups for which I only counted three person each).

We adapted to remote delivery by offering 3 options to participants : 1. Synchronous; 2. asynchronous; 3. Cancel their participation.

As many canceled, we restructured the tables. Most elected for synchronous delivery, after we switched to an earlier time slot favoring the participation of most time zones across the US.

The online info you pasted about the program is up to date.

We encourage SALC to make the "research roundtable" component permanent, as there was a great deal of interest in these tables initially.

**Committee on Nominations: Elizabeth Cooksey**

The Committee on Nominations consisted of Elizabeth Cooksey (Chair), CHRR at The Ohio State University, Richard Settersten, Oregon State University, Patricia Drentea, University of Alabama, Birmingham and Michael Vuolo, Sociology at The Ohio State University.

The Chair asked for nominations (including self nominations) at the 2019 ASA meetings. There was one self nomination and between regular member suggestions and suggestions from Committee Members we came up with a total of 5 people suggested for the position of Chair, 9 for Council Members and four for student members. The Committee paid particular attention to trying to come up with a slate of candidates that was as diverse as possible in terms of stage of career, research interests, race/ethnicity and gender. The following are the names of candidates that the membership voted on.

Chair Elect: Anne Barrett, Merril Silverstein (elected)

Council Members: Scott Landes, Marc Garcia, Bridget Goosby (elected) and Stephanie Ureña (elected)

Student Council Members: Chrise Edmunds (elected) and Jing Geng

### **Award Committees**

#### **2020 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, John Reynolds**

The Graduate Student Paper Award Committee consisted of Matt Andersson, Baylor; Lisa Miller, Eckerd College; John Reynolds (committee chair), Florida State; Patty Thomas, Purdue; and Mieke Beth Thomeer, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham.

The Call for Nominations for the SALC awards was distributed via the SALC Fall 2019 Newsletter and listerv announcements on 1-9-2020 and 2-20-2020.

The committee received six paper nominations by the March 1 deadline from graduate students at Duke (2x), Univ of Michigan, Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln, Univ of Notre Dame, and Univ of Wisconsin-Madison.

Committee members independently ranked the six submissions and recorded what they deemed to be the greatest strength of each submission. On April 14, the committee met via Zoom, discussed the six papers' rankings, and noted their individual strengths.

The committee then awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award to Shannon Ang, University of Michigan, for the paper titled, "Your friends, my friends and our family: Informal social participation and mental health through the lens of linked lives." The Committee also determined that a second paper, "Hearing impairment and mental health among married couples," by Jessica West, Duke, deserved recognition as an Honorable Mention.

#### **2020 Outstanding Publication Award, Andrea Willson**

The committee: Andrea Willson, chair, Dale Dannefer, Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson, Markus Schafer

Number of publications submitted: 21 (7 books, 14 articles)

Impact of COVID: The award recipients will attend the virtual Business Meeting this year for the award announcement, and the award will be presented in person at the 2021 meeting as well.

Award Recipient: Roi Livne's 2019 book *Values at the End of Life: The Logic of Palliative Care*

Honorable Mention: Celeste Watkins-Hayes' 2019 book *Remaking a Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality*

#### **2020 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, Jennifer Karas Montez (Chair)**

I first want to thank the committee for their thoughtful reviews of the nominees for the MRW award. The committee consisted of Eileen Crimmins (2019 MWR award winner), Jennifer Ailshire and Richard Miech (the two outgoing SALC council members), and myself as SALC Chair-elect.

All of the nominees for this award were highly deserving, with excellent records of scholarship that represent important contributions to aging and the life course scholarship. Choosing from among these excellent nominees was challenging. After careful consideration, we unanimously and enthusiastically agreed upon the awardee, Dr. Ellen Idler, the Samuel Candler Dobbs Chair of Sociology and Professor of Epidemiology at Emory University.

Professor Idler has made vital contributions to the study of health and aging. Her stellar productivity includes 55 referred journal articles, 33 book chapters, two monographs, and one edited book. She regularly publishes in highly regarded journals such as the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. The high impact of her scholarship is reflected in over 21,000 citations to her articles.

One of Dr. Idler’s many notable contributions to the field of life course and aging is her innovative work on the relationship between religion and health. Her work has shown, for example, that religious affiliation has a particularly protective affect for Christians and Jews during the month before their religious holidays. Another tremendous contribution, which is as relevant today as it was when published in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* in 1997, is her classic paper (with Yael Benyamini) on the power of self-rated health to predict mortality risk. It is one of the Top Ten Most Frequently Cited Papers in the Social Sciences, with an average of 193 citations per year.

Dr. Idler has also consistently served the discipline and has been elected to serve in many visible leadership roles. For example, she has served SALC in multiple roles such as Chair, Council member, Chair of the Outstanding Publication Award Committee, and Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee. She has also served as the Gerontological Society of American in role such as Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section and Chair of the GSA Task Force on Mentoring.

In closing, we echo her nominators, who wrote “Professor Idler is truly a sociologist and scholar of the first rank who has made exceptional contributions to the study of aging and the life course.”

Changes to the MWR Award Presentations Due to the 2020 ASA Cancellation

The 2019 MWR winner, Dr. Merrill Silverstein, would have delivered the MWR Lecture at the 2020 ASA meeting. The SALC council decided that the lecture is too important to be given virtually. With agreement from Dr. Silverstein and Dr. Idler, the SALC council decided the following schedule.

<b>ASA Meeting Year</b>	<b>MWR Award Winner</b>	<b>MWR lecture at ASA</b>
2019	Merril Silverstein	Eileen Crimmins (2018 winner)
2020	Ellen Idler (announced)	none
2021	Ellen Idler (presentation); no new awardee	Merril Silverstein
2022	To be named in 2022	Ellen Idler
2023 (will be back on track)	To be named in 2023	Awardee from 2022

**2020 Outstanding Mentor Award, Mark Hayward**

The SALC Outstanding Mentoring Award Committee included Mark Hayward (Chair), Jennifer Ailshire, Phil Cantu, and Xi Song. The committee received two nominations. The committee was unanimous in their decision to give the award to Jacqueline L. Angel at University of Texas at Austin. Her record of mentoring is exemplary, spanning many decades and institutions. She is one of the leaders in promoting diversity, encouraging and engaging in mentoring activities that speak to the needs of a diverse set of junior researchers in aging and the life course. The nomination letter was highly detailed about the many contributions within and across institutions compared to the other nomination letter. The letter included signatories from many scholars across the nation and discipline, showcasing the reach of her mentoring influence. We urge those preparing nomination letters to have multiple co-signers on letters, indicate where co-signers are working now, and think broadly about types of mentorship.