Dear SALC Colleagues:
Greetings and welcome to 2022, the 43rd year that SALC has been a Section at ASA! As we head out of winter and move toward spring, we look forward with cautious optimism to returning to our normal personal and professional lives. I, for one, am looking forward to warmer weather and longer days. ASA is planning to hold its annual meeting in sunny Los Angeles this summer. So it’s full speed ahead for holding an in-person meeting and SALC is planning accordingly.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your membership in the Section and encourage you to recruit new members to our ranks. Please don’t forget to renew your ASA and SALC membership! The size of our section as of July 31 is used by ASA to determine the number session slots allocated for the 2023 ASA conference. Consider purchasing student gift memberships—you can change a student’s life by enhancing their professional development as a SALC member!

SALC session organizers are busy reviewing submissions to our SALC-sponsored symposia and roundtables. SALC section day for the 2022 conference is Monday, August 8th. We will send a detailed announcement later this spring with the final program and a list of papers and presenters.

An important mission of our Section is to reward excellence in research, mentoring, and career accomplishments by issuing awards to our most distinguished members. Thanks to those who made nominations for Outstanding Mentor Award, Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, Outstanding Publication Award, and Graduate Student Paper Award. We will celebrate award winners at the SALC business meeting.

Janet Wilmoth is in the process of planning our annual SALC mentoring event at ASA after a two year hiatus. At past meetings, the mentoring dinner has been a special feature of our Section and a highlight of the meeting for many Section members. I know we are very much looking forward to seeing each other in real life. We are also planning a mentoring program for early career scholars that will be connected to the dinner or reception, so stay tuned. By popular demand, other mentoring activities will continue on a virtual basis over the year with great thanks going to the Professional Development and Mentoring Committee for their efforts.

Please be aware that elections for ASA and SALC officers will take place later this spring. I extend my thanks to Past Chair Jennifer Karas Montez and other Nominations Committee members J. Scott Brown, Elaine Hernandez, and Hyeyoung Woo for their work generating an outstanding slate of candidates.

I also want to welcome Terri Cooney as our newest member of SALC Council and thank Bridget Goosby for her service as she steps down from Council. My gratitude to both colleagues for their generous efforts on behalf of the Section.

Finally, I want to thank our newsletter editors, Stephanie Ureña and Shannon Shen, for the wonderful job they did putting together this document, as well as our social media volunteers and committee chairs and members, without whose dedication SALC would not be the dynamic Section it is today.

Merril Silverstein, Chair, ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course
2022 SALC Program
Section Day: Monday, August 8

Open Session: Caregiving Careers in an Era of Family and Social Change
Organized by: Jacqueline Angel, University of Texas, Austin

Open Session: Cross-National Differences in Life Course Dynamics and Aging
Organized by: Jennifer Ailshire, University of Southern California

Refereed Roundtables and Research Working Groups
Organized by: Andre Christie-Mizell, Vanderbilt University & Anna Muraco, Loyola Marymount University

Matilda White Riley Lecture
Our recipient of the 2021 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, Ellen Idler (Emory University), will deliver the lecture

2022 Mentoring Event
The Professional Development and Mentoring committee is hard at work planning for the mentoring event. Look for future announcements about the date and details, as well as details about future virtual mentoring events!
Candidates for 2022 SALC Officers

Candidates for Chair Elect

Scott M. Lynch, PhD

Present Position: Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology
Director, Center for Population Health and Aging Associate Director, Duke University Population Research Institute, Duke University

Education: PhD, Duke University, 2001; MS, Duke University, 1999; MA, University of Arkansas, 1995

Positions Held in ASA:
Editorial Board member, Sociological Methodology 2011-2015/2017-pres
Editorial Board member, American Sociological Review 2014-2017
Goodman Award Committee member (methodology section) 2015
Nominating committee member (Population section) 2014
Editorial Board member, Journal of Health and Social Behavior 2009-2011


Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the position of chair of SALC. I have spent my career studying health across the life course and in particular the evolution of social disparities in health across the lives of individuals and across birth cohorts. About half of my work has been in the development and furthering of methods that are useful for life course analyses. I have been a member of ASA and SALC for many years and am lucky to have been mentored by some of the greatest life course scholars our section has had as members. Now as a more senior faculty member, I strive to inspire students to learn about life course studies and offer or facilitate the quality of mentorship I was fortunate enough to receive from SALC. As chair, I would focus on encouraging more young scholars to join the section to help keep it—and our field—as vibrant and exciting as ever.

Miles G. Taylor, PhD

Present Position: Professor of Sociology
Director, Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, Florida State University, 2021-present
Education: Postdoctoral Fellow, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008-2009
PhD, Duke University, 2005

Positions Held in ASA: Guest Editor and Deputy Editor, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2020-present.
SALC Membership Chair, 2017-present.
ASA Dissertation Award Committee, 2018.
Co-Chair, SALC Committee on Mentoring and Professional Development, 2006-2008.


Personal Statement: It would be an honor to serve as chair of ASA’s Section on Aging and the Life Course. SALC has been my ASA “home” since graduate school, where I won the student paper award in 2003. I owe so much to the scholarship, fellowship, and mentorship I have found here. Our section is unique in ASA and beyond, and I am committed to the support and recognition of our strong and vibrant community. I have served in various supporting roles since 2005 as Student Representative, Co-Chair of the Mentoring Committee, Awards Committee Member, and most recently as Membership Chair. My goals for our section include rebuilding a strong, diverse membership and representation at ASA and our annual meeting as we emerge from the pandemic. I am also very committed to maintaining our excellent reputation of mentoring and support for junior scholars through the mentoring dinner, awards, and new initiatives.
Candidates for 2022 SALC Officers

Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

**Michal Engelman, PhD**

**Present Position:**
Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Training Director, Center for Demography of Health and Aging

Principal Investigator, Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of SALT. Like many section members, my research focuses on early and mid-life factors that influence longevity and health inequities at older ages. I’m especially interested questions that explore the implications of social stratification for health outcomes and in methods that bring to light variability masked by aggregate population health statistics. SALT has been my intellectual home since I began attending ASA, and I am proud of the section’s vibrant traditions and openness to many different ways of engaging in research on the life course. I also appreciate the opportunity to contribute to SALT’s work in promoting vital research on aging and the life course and providing a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive community for scholars at all academic stages.

**Mieke Beth Thomeer, PhD**

**Present Position:**
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated for Secretary/Treasurer. The first time I attended ASA, I spent most of the conference feeling out of place—until the night of the SALT mentoring dinner. At dinner, a group of senior faculty that I had never met recognized my “newness” and called me over to their table. I enjoyed talking about aging and life course research with that group, and, ever since, the SALT has been critical for me in terms of mentorship, research inspiration, teaching ideas, and community. My research on gender/sexuality, health, & family dynamics across the life course has benefited from input from SALT members and SALT sessions. I previously served as an SALT Council Member (2018-2021). As Secretary/Treasurer, I would welcome the opportunity to continue efforts to make our section a welcoming and inclusive space, providing needed mentorship and collaboration related to aging and life course research.

Don’t forget to renew your ASA and SALT membership!

Consider purchasing student gift memberships—you can change a student’s life by enhancing their professional development as a SALT member!
Candidates for Council
There are four candidates for two slots on the Council. The 3-year term begins in 2021.

Ynesse Abdul-Malak
**Present Position:** Assistant Professor of Sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
Senior Research Affiliate at Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
**Personal Statement:** I’m honored to be nominated for the SALC Council. I am originally from Haiti and migrated to NYC at the age of 13. My first degree is in nursing and I worked as a nurse during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I also have a BS in Environmental Health and a Master’s degree in Public Health at the American University of Beirut. I also have a Master’s and PhD in Sociology at Syracuse University. I teach courses on race, aging, gender, immigration, medical sociology, and research methodology. One of my main research investigations how country of origin, early life events, and context of reception in the United States impact immigrant health, with the aim of shedding light on health disparities among various minority groups, in the context of COVID-19. I am also a public sociologist who wishes to expand the disciplinary boundaries outside of academia and have been working with different institutions to help them with their Diversity, Equity, and Diversity (DEI) initiatives. With this nomination, I would be delighted to bring my interdisciplinary and diverse background to SALC.

Ryon Cobb
**Present Position:** Assistant Professor of Sociology at UGA/Research Scientist, Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research/ KL2 Scholar, Georgia CTSA
**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated for a council position. My research program examines the health implications of socially oppressive systems throughout the life course among adults in the United States. If elected, I would bring to this position several strengths that I believe will serve SALC well and advance its mission. First, I learned to appreciate diverse views and research across area-specific and disciplinary lines through affiliations with interdisciplinary institutes and research centers. Second, my extensive professional service and contacts would enhance the visibility of our association within and outside of our discipline. Finally, through service, I would bring organizational and management skills that would be vital to the day-to-day operations of the SALC and its overall success.

Marc Garcia
**Present Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse University.
**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated to serve as a SALC Council member. My current research is organized around two interrelated themes that seek to explain health disparities across the life course in the United States and Mexico. The first focuses on identifying factors that contribute to physical and cognitive health disparities among older racial/ethnic and immigrant adults. The second explores the demographic heterogeneity among older U.S. Latinos to shed light on how sociocultural characteristics and contextual factors associated with nativity status and country of origin contribute to within-group differences in health and well-being. Over the years I have benefited tremendously from mentorship, networking, and collaborations with many section members, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the future growth and continued success of the ASA SALC through participation as a member of the Council.

Emma Zang
**Present Position:** Assistant Professor of Sociology and Biostatistics (Secondary), Yale University
**Personal Statement:** It is my honor to be nominated for the SALC Council. My work aims to improve the understanding of how early-life conditions affect later-life health outcomes, social stratification and health, and causal spillover effects and gender inequality within the household. I also develop statistical methods to model trajectories and life transitions. As a junior scholar, I have benefitted so much from the events organized by SALC. I am eager to have the opportunity to contribute to the SALC section. In particular, in this challenging time, I would like the council to provide more mentoring resources and opportunities for students and junior scholars, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. I would also like to work with the council to explore ways to retain members of the section and enhance engagement of members.
Nominees for SALC Student Representative

Kagan A. Mellencamp (he/him/his)

Present Position: PhD Candidate in Sociology, Bowling Green State University
Personal Statement: I am a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Broadly, my research draws on the life course perspective to uncover the implications of major life events for health and family functioning in mid- to late-life. I work closely with my wonderful mentors, Drs. I-Fen Lin and Susan L. Brown, to examine the antecedents and outcomes of gray divorce, but my personal research focuses on the consequences of child death experienced as an aging parent. My Master’s thesis explored trajectories of depressive symptoms following child death in later life across gender and race-ethnicity and won the BGSU Graduate College Distinguished Thesis Award. My dissertation expands on this project by examining how losing a child during the second half of life shapes the risk of gray divorce, parent-surviving child relationships, and cognitive decline among older parents. My collective research at BGSU has earned me the Donald J. and Susan Adamchak Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Sociology.

Although meaningful, my research achievements tell you little about why I am qualified to serve as SALC Student Representative. Beyond my research, I dedicate most of my time in graduate school to departmental, professional, and community service. I helped develop a student mentoring program to bridge the gap between first-year and senior graduate students in my department. Yearly findings from this program are presented to the Department of Sociology Chair and Director of Graduate Studies to help inform how our department can better engage with its prospective graduate students. I am also a member of the Professional Development Committee, helping to coordinate teaching workshops for graduate students and faculty. More informally, I make myself available to junior graduate students, meeting with them regularly to aid in statistics or provide feedback on ongoing projects. Professionally, I have chaired and served as discussant at PAA and currently serve as a reviewer for JGSS/JGPS. On campus, I organize seasonal donation and volunteer events as the current Chair of the Sociology Graduate Student Association’s Service Committee, connecting our department with community service opportunities in Wood County, OH. Specifically, we work closely with The Cocoon, a women and children’s shelter, Project Connect Wood County, and the Wood County Committee on Aging.

I believe we as life course scholars understand the importance of circumstance for development. Therefore, I pledge to amplify the voices of non-traditional, first-generation, and minority students to make our section an inclusive space for professional growth and mentoring for all. This advocacy is the reason I pursued a future in Sociology—to share with others the tools necessary to define and thrive in the ever-changing world around them. It would be an honor to serve as SALC Student Representative, and I appreciate your consideration.

Amelia Pittman

Present Position: PhD Student at Duke University
Personal Statement: I am a first-year PhD student at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina; before coming to Duke, I got my Masters in Gerontological Studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. My research broadly involves health disparities; my goal is to produce sociological research that can have a real, positive impact on peoples’ experiences in the health care system. My research interest in gerontology and the sociology of aging ties in perfectly with that – older adults interact disproportionately often with the health care system, and all too often they receive substandard care. Recently, I’ve been involved in a project on self-perceptions of aging as a determinant of experiences of medical ageism I’m working on with colleagues at Miami; my master’s thesis, an explorative qualitative study on age-friendly communities in Ohio that I also worked on with Miami colleagues; and a personal project examining Medicare recipients as an indicator of what health disparities would still exist within a universal health care system.

I’m excited about the opportunity to serve as SALC Student Representative. It’s a great time to study aging; the issues facing older adults couldn’t be more current or relevant to society at large. I want to use the position of SALC Student Representative to connect driven young scholars in the field of aging to experienced mentors who can give them direction and advice. I’m passionate about making connections between people that can help both parties reach a new level of success. I think that’s what professional associations like ASA are all about, and I’m honored to be considered for a position within this section.

Look out for announcements on upcoming virtual mentoring activities for students!
Emerging Scholar

Yifei Hou
PhD Candidate
Department of Sociology & Center on Aging and the Life Course
Purdue University
E-mail: hou95@purdue.edu

I am a dual-title PhD candidate in Sociology and Gerontology at Purdue University. I study the inter-linked lives of family members in middle and later life in the United States and China. My work has appeared in Research on Aging, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, and Network Science.

The overarching research question that catches my interest is how cultural, social structural, and socioemotional factors shape family relations in middle and later life, and how family relations, in turn, affect mental health. I have pursued these questions through a series of related work that takes comparative, life course, and within-family differences perspectives.

My first line of work has focused on the inter-relatedness and variations in family relationships and well-being within the later-life family. Drawing from the life course and within-family differences perspectives, my dissertation examines the transmission of interpersonal relationship quality in later-life families and consequences on adult children’s mental health using mixed-method data from the Within-Family Differences Study. I argue that by interacting with mothers and observing how their mothers interact with their network members, adult offspring develop interpersonal relationships that are similar to their mothers. I have found evidence for transmission of parent-child relationship quality in later life, particularly for daughters, and especially in the case of positive (i.e., closeness) rather than negative (i.e., tension) dimensions. Furthermore, I have found that transmission of both parent-child and friendship quality affected adult children’s well-being.

Taken together, my dissertation highlights the influence of mothers’ socialization of their children across the life course, and the essential roles that selective social learning and social structural positions play in these processes.

In collaboration with Dr. J. Jill Suitor and Dr. Megan Gilligan, my other work in this area has examined how parental differential treatment affects children’s mental health in later-life families. We have found that maternal favoritism increased adult daughters’ depressive symptoms, primarily when mothers became widowed and the favored daughters embraced the role of emotional caregiver.

My second major interest is the comparison of later-life family dynamics across cultures and social groups. I have examined how sibship size and gender interact to shape adult children’s support to older parents in China. Contrary to patterns in the United States and Europe, I found the substitution of daughters with sons in China. Daughters’ time spent helping parents was lower when they had more brothers, whereas sons’ patterns of helping were independent of the number of siblings. This finding highlights the unique ways in which culture interacts with family structure to shape intergenerational support in China. Thus, it inspires policymakers to consider the sociocultural context when helping families maintain later-life support.

In the future, I plan to expand the scope of my research to more diverse later-life experiences, broader family exchange networks, and longer life course periods. I am particularly interested in extending my work on within-family differences in the context of aging families in China.

When I am not working, I organize dance practices for a group of women immigrants in the communities in the Greater Lafayette area. As an amateur dancer, I regularly perform Chinese Classical Dance and Folk Dance at Global Festivals and other cultural events, which have been featured by local news media.

Send nominations for Emerging Scholars to: Merril Silverstein, SALC Chair merrils@syr.edu
Five Questions for C. André Christie-Mizell, PhD

**Hometown?** My hometown is Cleveland, GA in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains (also known as the "City of Mountain Breezes"). It is a small, rural town about 90 minutes northeast of Atlanta. I still have a lot of family in this town and visit whenever I can.

**Proudest Accomplishment?** Professionally: Earning a PhD as a first-generation student, which has led to a very fulfilling career as a researcher, professor, and now university administrator.

Personally: I am very proud of my family, including a 27-year relationship with my husband and our four adopted children, who are now young adults, ranging in age from 17 to 21.

**Your first-ever job?** I was a grocery store bagger at Piggly Wiggly, a supermarket chain.

**A surprising fact about yourself?** My goal in high school was to be principal clarinetist in a major orchestra. I went to the Oberlin Conservatory and majored in clarinet performance while also studying piano and voice. However, I also picked up a major in Sociology and eventually choose the path of academic sociology.

**Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received?** The best advice I received was to take pride in "owning" my work, but to simultaneously accept the help of others. It is because of the support of many mentors that I have been able to fashion a career that I have found empowering. At every stage – undergraduate, graduate, junior faculty, and so on - I have benefited from the advice of people who gave freely of their time and invested in my success.

Five Questions for Anna Muraco, PhD

**Hometown?** Santa Clara, California

**Proudest Accomplishment?** Earning my Ph.D. I’m a first-generation college student and some days, it still feels like a miracle.

**Your first-ever job?** I worked as an ice cream scooper at the Banana Tree during high school. First academic job: Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. I tried to move a few times but am still here!

**A surprising fact about yourself?** I had a six-year career prior to going to graduate school, which was working with violent crime victims. I earned my master's degree by taking night classes at San Jose State University while working full time.

**Best piece of professional advice you’ve ever received?** Give yourself permission to take time off.

Journal Showcase

**Journal of Applied Gerontology** (Southern Gerontological Society) *Journal of Applied Gerontology* provides an international forum for information that has clear and immediate applicability to the health, care, and quality of life of older persons. Each issue brings you the latest research and analysis from the field—and helps you apply it to your everyday practice.

2022 Impact Factor: 3.200
News & Announcements

NEW Council Member: Teresa Cooney

Teresa Cooney, PhD
Professor & Department Chair, Sociology
University of Colorado Denver

Teresa Cooney is a social gerontologist and family sociologist who studies socio-demographic change and its implications for the adult life course. Her work focuses primarily on the impact of changing marriage, divorce, and fertility patterns for transitions in adulthood and adults’ family roles and relationships. Her recent work has examined marital status differences in end-of-life planning (using national survey data), women’s experiences of caregiving for ex-husbands at end-of-life (using primary qualitative data), and life course influences on successful aging in a longitudinal, survey panel. She is starting a new study that considers whether grandparents’ support to adult offspring and their young families varies by the adult child’s union and fertility history. Dr. Cooney is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

Section Member Publications

Tirth Bhatta, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Tirth Bhatta, Nirmala Lekhak, Timothy D. Goler, Eva Kahana & Sfurti Rathi, The intersection of race and financial strain: The pain of social disconnection among women in the United States
https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2022.2041154

Stacy Torres, Assistant Professor, University of California San Francisco


Nekehia Quashie, Assistant Professor at University of Rhode Island


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 2022 to 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 & Twitter!

Follow us to engage 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/
https://twitter.com/asa_salc?lang=en

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