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Message from the Chair

The Sociology Department at the University of Minnesota produces compelling, relevant scholarship. The department upholds its reputation for intellectual diversity, with faculty publishing in every type of sociology journal, from Critical Sociology to the American Sociological Review. In summer 2013, we begin hosting two high-profile journals within the department, Sociology of Education (one of the American Sociological Association's four journals) and Law & Society Review (the interdisciplinary journal of the Law & Society Association). In 2015, Professor Phyllis Moen received the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Medal for her outstanding work studying the impact of flexible work arrangements on productivity and worker satisfaction. Moving beyond the traditional academic outlets, thesocietypages.org continues to attract millions of viewers.

Our graduate students benefit from the dynamic environment of the department, co-authoring with faculty and working closely with them on externally-funded grants and other projects from the moment they enter the program. This environment explains why a number of our students go on to publish their own sole-authored work while still in graduate school. It also explains why our students do well on the job market. Our graduate program is stronger than ever.

We are proud that our top-notch Sociology and Law, Crime, and Deviance programs continue to serve a diverse cadre of undergraduates, many of whom are first-generation college students. For four of the past five years, Sociology faculty members have received the College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Teaching Award. We are constantly expanding pathways for undergraduates to conduct their own independent research, participate in community service learning, engage in internships, and join with faculty and graduate students on long-term research projects.

These are challenging times. Inequality is at an all-time high while higher-education excellence and access are threatened. A great, low-cost public education opened doors for many of us—to successful careers, to revealing intellectual insights, to solutions to pressing problems. I hope that you will join with us to advocate to keep those doors open for today's young people. Given the same opportunities we had, I guarantee they will amaze and inspire us.

Elizabeth Boyle

Professor and Chair
INTEREST AREAS:
Migration; Gender, Race and Class; Family; Islam; Education, Development Studies; Human Rights; Globalization; Africa; Middle East.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
One of my new projects examines the educational attainment and school choices of new migrants. For children of migrant parents, the American education system can be their ladder to social mobility and the realization of their American dream, or it can leave them behind as a part of millions of Americans whose lives remain precarious. This study investigates the increasing role ethnocentric charter schools are playing in new refugee and migrant groups’ education in Minnesota and how this shapes their long-term settlement and integration in the United States.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Social Network Analysis, Mathematical and Computational Sociology, Demography, Methodology, and Human Judgment and Decision Making

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Almquist’s scholarship is centered in two primary areas: social network analysis, where his research focuses on the effects of geography and time on social processes (and large-scale social structure) and the measurement and sampling of social networks; and demography, where he looks to integrate spatial analysis and social network analysis with classic and formal demographic theory. Underlying both of these themes is a strong interest in developing statistical techniques for application to social science problems.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Historical and Comparative; Political Sociology; Sociology of Development; Nationalism; Race Relations; Social Movements; Democratic Theory.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
I am working on a collaborative research project on the politics of agricultural policy, land conflicts, and the future of small-scale farming in contemporary Tanzania.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Social Memory Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Antisemitism, Globalization, Sociology of Media and Communication, Qualitative Methods, Visual Sociology.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
I am interested in the socio-political consequences of memory narratives and the delicate relationship between processes of collective remembering, reconciliatory initiatives, and the demands of justice in post-conflict or post-authoritarian societies. To what extent are people of the current generation bound by a violent past and the memory of this past? What forms of subjectivity emerge through different memories of atrocity, and what forms of collective action do these memories facilitate or hinder?

I also co-organize the Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Violence Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Group.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


“Visuelle Soziologie”, special issue of Soziale Welt (vol 1-2, 2013), co-edited with Bernt Schnettler.


INTEREST AREAS:
American Race Relations; Social Movements; Work, Professions & Organizations

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Black Power Law. It has been established that lawyers play important roles in social movements. Lawyers shape movement frames, set movement agendas and protect movements from external legal action. What about lawyers who defend radical activists? How did lawyers use the courts in support of Black Power activist?

*Black Power Lawyers: Unique and Unorthodox Methods.* Under Contract with Oxford University Press and supported by a 2015-2016 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies fellowship at Harvard University.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Economic sociology; Social networks; Social stratification; Chinese society.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Guanxi-based corporate social capital; Social networks and jobs in Chinese cities; Institutional change and social mobility in post-Mao China.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Sociology of Law; Globalization; Children’s and Women’s Rights.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Abortion Politics in the Global Arena. Transnational organizations from the International Planned Parenthood Association to the Roman Catholic Church have gotten involved in shaping abortion policies around the world. How has this affected governments’ regulation of abortion and what are the implications for women?

“Integrated Demographic and Health Survey Project.” 2012-2016. Funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Political Sociology, Environmental Sociology, Climate Change, Social
Movements, Network Analysis, Global Society, Discourse Analysis,
Qualitative Methods, Institutions and Culture, Cross-national Comparative
Methods, Japan, East Asia.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
COMPON—Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks.
Comparative study of the effects of discourse and mobilization networks
upon policies to mitigate (reduce) carbon emissions and their outcomes,
with research teams in and data from 19 cases (countries and region).
Funded by National Science Foundation

The Unique Hybridity of Polities: Japanese, US and German Labor Politics
as Multiplex Network Configurations and Power Hierarchies

Dimensions of Contention: the Transforming Mixture of Material, Social and
Cultural Networks

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
“Dimensions of Contention: Integrating Material, Social and Cultural Aspects
through Dynamic Network Analysis.” Forthcoming. Cultural Sociology
Working Papers, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.

“Mitigating Climate Change: Sociological Perspectives,” with Karen Erhardt-
Martinez, Tom Rudel, and Kari Norgaard. Forthcoming in Riley Dunlap and
Bob Brulle (editors), Sociological Approaches to Climate Change Mitigation
(tentative title), American Sociological Association and Oxford University
Press.

“Inter-disciplinary Analysis of Climate Change and Society: A Network
Approach,” with Philip Vaughter. 2014. in Michael Manfredo, et. Al. (eds.),
Understanding Society and Natural Resources: Forging New Strands of
Integration Across the Social Sciences, Springer Press, open access.

“Asian Societies and Climate Change: Global Events and Domestic
Discourse,” with Sun-Jin Yun, Dowan Ku, Kazuhiro Ikeda, Keiichi Satoh,
Sony Pellissery, Pradip Swarnarkar, Tze-Luen Lin, Ho-Ching Lee and Jun

Social Movements: Power, Protest and Change in a Dynamic Region, J.
Broadbent and V. Brockman (editors). New York: Springer.
INTEREST AREAS:
International and Internal Migration; Integration and Assimilation; Demography and Population Studies; Race and Ethnic Studies; Quantitative Methods.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
My current research focuses on:
- Migration systems and migration systems theory
- Causes, characteristics, and consequences of international and internal migration patterns
- Environmental and disaster-oriented migration
- Implications of the above for issues of integration and assimilation, including stratification and inequality

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Culture; Religion; Gender & Family; Symbolic Boundaries & Inequality

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Edgell is currently working on two NSF-funded research projects. One focuses on how religious, scientific, and legal frameworks intersect to shape citizens’ understandings of controversial social issues (faith-based prison ministry, genetic reproductive technologies, and faith-based refusal of medical treatment for a dependent child). And using the second wave survey data for the American Mosaic Project, she is analyzing Americans’ attitudes towards religious and racial outgroups, public religious expression, and the civic involvement of the non-religious. She is interested in how religion is a simultaneous source of inclusion and exclusion in American life, shaping symbolic boundaries and understandings of moral worth.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


Gabrielle Ferrales
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INTEREST AREAS:
Law and Society; Gender; Criminology and Criminal Justice; International Criminal Law; Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; Factorial Survey Methods for Empirical Analysis.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Ferrales’ scholarship lies at the intersection of gender, crime and law. Her current research examines in three distinct case studies the legal treatment of gender-based violence in both domestic and international contexts including: a factorial survey quantitative analysis of the sentencing decisions of Iraqi judges; an examination of prosecutorial decision-making in a domestic violence unit of a state district attorney’s office; and studying rape victimization survey data and field interviews collected in the Darfur region of Sudan.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Historical Sociology; Politics and Social Movements; Social Theory; Diversity and Solidarity in American Society.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Gerteis is interested in the dynamics of difference and solidarity and how these play into the formation of group boundaries, interests, and identities. He is currently exploring how Americans think about both the benefits and costs of diversity, as well as how claims about American national identity often involve racial and religious exclusions. His recent work has involved a book on interracial labor movements of the late 19th century and papers from the American Mosaic Project exploring how Americans think about issues of diversity and solidarity in modern America through the lenses of race and religion.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Transnational, Political Economic, and Urban Sociology; Transnational Institutions of Finance, Development, and Expertise.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Provincializing global urbanism; the making of a world city (Bangalore, India); financialization of the city, urban ‘spaces of hope’.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

“As Cities become Financialized…” Interview feature article in Express magazine, Istanbul, Turkey, March 2014.


INTEREST AREAS:
Urban Sociology; Ethnography; Poverty and Marginality; Consumption and Branded Labor; the Cultural Micro-Foundations of Alternative Economies

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Since 1980 there have been some deep shifts in the American understanding and management of poverty. My 2010 book Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders analyzes the medicalization and criminalization of homelessness. A closely-related development has been the increasing centrality of addiction discourse and what Sarah Whetstone and I call “strong-arm” rehab – court-mandated treatment -- to contemporary poverty management. My largest project during my Minnesota years examines this important place of addiction treatment within contemporary social policy, studying the primary forms of addiction intervention targeted to the uninsured with a combination of ethnography, life-history interviews of clients (inside and after program experience), and discourse analysis of program material. Two of our sites work closely with local courts – one a “strong-arm” therapeutic community strongly shaped by the 12-step tradition, the other an evangelical program premised on conversion. Both place a strong emphasis on a holistic remaking of the individual, instilling a strict moral code, self-discipline and a strong work ethic. A third site rooted in the alternative “harm reduction” model practiced practical, "non-judgmental" health education and outreach. Sarah Whetstone and I are bringing several elements of the project together in a book manuscript tentatively titled American Addict: Out of Control in the Treatment State.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


Douglas Hartmann
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INTEREST AREAS
Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Sociology of Culture; Sport Studies; Social Movements; American Society; Field Methods; Contemporary Theory; Public Engagement.

CURRENT RESEARCH
- Kids Involvement and Diversity Study (KIDS);
- Sport & Social Intervention (midnight basketball book, forthcoming)
- The American Mosaic Project
- The Society Pages.org.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


INTEREST AREAS:
Culture; Law; Social Movements; Family; Gender and Sexuality.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
“The Construction and Contestation of ‘Family’ in LGBT Communities.” This project draws upon interviews and focus groups to examine the close relationships in the lives of sexual minorities and gender variant people. LGBT people are often invoked as threats to family in “family values” discourses, even as the gay rights movement focuses more than ever on a range of family issues including marriage and parenting rights. This project seeks to advance theorizing about nontraditional families.

“The Role of Cognition in the Development of Social Fragmentation, Commonalities, and Consensus.” This NSF-funded project with Professor Penny Edgell uses focus group discussions of contemporary social controversies to examine how ordinary citizens deliberate on complex issues and evaluate competing forms of expert discourse from religion, science and law.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Social Networks; Political Sociology; Economic Sociology; Organizations.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Investigations of diverse networks, including political, economic, intra- and interorganizational, health care, and terrorist & counterterror networks.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Race and Ethnicity; Social Demography; Indigenous Peoples; Social Stratification; Sociology of the Family and Life Course; Social Support.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Liebler is fascinated by the translation of individuals’ racial identities into their answers to standardized questions about race, as well as the ways in which these answers are grouped to form the statistics used by social scientists, a process complicated by dynamic identities, questionnaire wording, and place-specific social history.

In collaborations with Census Bureau researchers and using linked census data, she has recently shown that substantially more Americans have fluid responses to questions about race than was previously thought. A deeper look at response fluidity among American Indians shows distinctions between those who fluctuate between a single-race and multiple-race American Indian response and those who add or drop American Indian responses entirely.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Blackness in the Americas, Contemporary U.S. Race Relations; Race & the Body, Race & Electoral Politics, Blacks and Social Class, Afro-Latin America

CURRENT RESEARCH:
At the center of Professor Logan’s research agenda is the study of the evolving social construct of blackness in the 21st century. At present, Logan is working on a number of projects pertaining to race and to blackness, in connection with electoral politics, social class, pedagogy, and the body. These projects include-

- Towards a Sociology of Race and the Body
- Configuring the First Black President: Embodied Dimensions of the New Politics of Race
- Crack Babies & Meth Moms: Bodies at the Intersections of Science, Medicine, Gender & Race
- The Natural Hair Movement- The Racial Politics of Beauty in a Post-Racial Age
- Black Racial Futures: Social Class and Disparate Trajectories of Black Racialization
- Desirable (?) Hispanics and The Problem with The Blacks – the Republican Party’s Rocky Road to “Diversity”
- Using Autobiographical Narrative to Facilitate Student Learning about Race, Gender, Class & Sexuality

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Juvenile Justice; Homicide; Adolescence; Law and Society; Law and the Mental Health System.

CURRENT RESEARCH:

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


- 2006 American Psychological Association Guttmacher Award

INTEREST AREAS:
Family and Life Course; Adolescent and Young Adult Development; Gender.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
“The Adolescent Sexual Activity and Well-Being.” This project examines the effects of early sexual activity on a number of domains of adolescent life. A current study examines the role of friend and school norms in shaping the effects of sex on mental health, academic outcomes, and risk behaviors.

“The Families and Variation in Well-Being.” This project investigates the ways that differences within families manifest in child and parent well-being. One study finds the well-being of children from high conflict continuously married parent families is similar to those from single-parent families. Other studies examine the links between family dinners and well-being, parenting and subjective well-being, parental work adjustment after having a child, and children’s activities across the early life course.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Work, Family, Subjective Well-Being, Health, Policy, Gendered Life Course

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Professor Moen studies the mismatch between outdated work-time and career/retirement scripts and 21st century workforce and economic realities. She also studies gender differences and disparities at all stages of the changing life course. With Erin Kelly (MIT) and the Work, Family and Health Network, she investigates organizational work-time policies and practices, employee time strains, psychological and physical health outcomes; this includes the effects of an organizational-level innovation aimed at increasing supervisor support and employee control over where and when they work. Dr. Moen is incoming president of a large interdisciplinary and international association. Work and Family Researchers’ Network. She received the Dean’s Medal in 2015, as well as the Sociology Department’s mentorship award. Dr. Moen was awarded a fellowship at Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study of the Behavior Sciences for the 2015-16 academic year.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
The Life Course; Social Psychology; Work.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
The three generational “Youth Development Study” examines life course pathways and intergenerational dynamics.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Crime, Law, Deviance, and Punishment; Labor and Unionization; Political Sociology; Qualitative Research Methods; Social Theory.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
I'm currently studying a range of subjects, including bail, pre-sentence investigation reports, domestic violence protection orders, and crime desistance. I'm also finishing a book that uses historical case studies of state penal development to theorize about penal change.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Crime, Law, and Deviance; Inequality; Mixed Methods

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Phelps’ research is in the sociology of punishment, focusing in particular on the punitive turn in the U.S. Her current work focuses on the rise of probation supervision as a criminal justice sanction and its relationship to mass incarceration. She has also examined a variety of criminal justice topics, including: changes in rehabilitative programming in U.S. prisons since the 1970s and the recent decarceration trend and its implications for inequality. Together with Prof. Joshua Page and Philip Goodman, she is also working on a book tentatively titled *Breaking the Pendulum: The Long Struggle Over Criminal Justice.*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Criminal Law and Procedure in U.S. Society; History of Criminal Justice.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Samaha has written three influential textbooks, which are used at 465 colleges in 48 states. Joel’s teaching methods challenge students’ ideas and assumptions about criminal justice, and forces them to admit that other ideas are worth considering and studying. Prof. Samaha’s students find their lives and academic careers changed by this experience. A former student claims, “Joel’s style challenges the student to take the risks necessary to learn and achieve new understandings of the subject matter—and a great deal about themselves.”

Prof. Liz Boyle, Department Chair, recognizes his influence and success, claiming that Prof. Samaha has “shaped the instruction of criminal justice courses in every state and had a profound impact on the administration of criminal justice in Minnesota.”

Many of his former students have gone on to become professors, academics, and criminal justice leaders. “I have never met anyone who combined the depth of knowledge of law and history with [the] genius for analytical reasoning and powerful oratory,” stated a former student. “Joel is one of a kind.”

“Teaching undergraduates, to me, means making students uncomfortable with their assumptions.... I don’t see my job as picking the right or best assumptions for students, but as driving home a different point: that there are several reasonable meanings to any topic worth studying.”

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Knowledge, Memory & Representations; Law, Crime & Punishment; Human Rights; Comparative; Theory

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Dynamics between denial and the fight for acknowledgment of victimization, specifically genocide: Legal and legislative battles in the Armenian case (supported by the Archam and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


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INTEREST AREAS:
Agri-food Studies, Transnational Sociology, Social Movements, Global Political Economy, Political Sociology, Development/Post-Development Studies.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
My current project, “Science for the Poor: Foundations, Firms and the New Green Revolution for Africa,” focuses on efforts being made by philanthropic, corporate, state, and other actors to address chronic hunger and low agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa. I am interested in the contours of this new agricultural developmentalism in terms of its central actors and discourses, its visions of agricultural change, and the new knowledge networks, public-private partnerships, and North and South collaborations it is generating. My last book analyzed organized social activism against agricultural biotechnology and explored how the contending “life worlds” of anti-biotech activists and the biotechnology industry shaped the development and deployment of genetically modified organisms at a global scale.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Families; Intergenerational Relations; Social Inequality; Asian American Studies; Gender; Welfare State; Children, Youth and Young Adulthood.

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Growing Up But Not Apart: Young Adults’ Relationships with Their Parents. This study focuses on the changing transition to adulthood and its effects on intergenerational relationships among families from diverse backgrounds.

Hmong Youth and Young Adult Acculturation and Ethnic Identity (with Doug Hartmann and Pao Lee). This project explores how young adult children of Hmong refugees have understood their ethnic identities and cultural heritage over the course of growing up in St. Paul, MN.

Second Generation Asian Heritage Parenting (with Richard Lee). This study examines second generation Asian American parenting perspectives and practices.

Kids Involvement and Diversity Study (KIDS), with Ann Meier, Doug Hartmann, and Toben Nelson. This study investigates extracurricular activities of diverse children and youth, parent and youth motivations for participation, and their effects for kids and families.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
Crossings to Adulthood: How Diverse Young Americans Understand and Navigate their Lives, with Hartmann and Rumbaut. Forthcoming. Brill.


INTEREST AREAS:
Crime, Law, Justice; Life Course; Inequality; Methods; Policy

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Criminal records, felon voting rights, genocide perpetrators and survivors

Incarceration and Health, with Jason Schnittker. RWJF Investigator Award.

TheSocietyPages.org, editor and publisher, with Doug Hartmann.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:


INTEREST AREAS:
Social Inequality; Education; Health Disparities; Demography

CURRENT RESEARCH: (More projects are described on my web site)
High School & Beyond (with Chandra Muller and Eric Grodsky). I am conducting follow-up surveys of the sophomore (in 2013-2014) and senior (in 2014-2015) cohorts of High School and Beyond (HS&B). These ~30,000 people were first interviewed in high school in 1980; they are now in their early 50s. The full HS&B data will provide leverage in understanding the roles of education, cognitive and non-cognitive skills, and ascribed attributes in shaping work, health, and well-being at midlife.

Integrating, Harmonizing, and Linking Data from the Current Population Survey (with Sarah Flood). Despite the longitudinal design of the Current Population Survey (CPS), researchers have almost exclusively analyzed these data as though they were collected through a series of cross-sectional surveys. With support from NIH, we are developing integrated data, dissemination software, and associated metadata that will make longitudinal analyses of CPS data radically easier.

I am also the Editor of Sociology of Education, a top-10 sociology journal and a top-20 education research journal. See http://soe.sagepub.com/

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS: (Links to publications are provided on my web site)


INTEREST AREAS:
Formal Demography; Social Demography; Race; Health; Inequality

CURRENT RESEARCH:
Prof. Wrigley-Field’s work integrates demographic methods, designed to shift perspectives between population-level patterns and individual-level transitions between social statuses, with a sociological approach to the study of inequality, in which multiple dimensions of stratification interact in specific settings.

Much of Prof. Wrigley-Field’s work concerns mortality selection: the phenomenon that common measures of inequality may be distorted because disadvantaged subpopulations have short lifespans. Her current work in progress uses demographic tools to explore human-microbe interactions.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Administrative Staff

- Elizabeth Boyle  Chair
- David Knoke    Associate Chair
- Ann Miller     Assistant to the Chair
- Ann Meier      Director of Graduate Studies
- Becky Drasin   Graduate Program Associate
- Kathy Hull     Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Bobby Bryant   Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising