

# 2026 SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LMU SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2026

UNH 4300



### Message From The Chair

Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we conclude another academic year, I want to express my gratitude for the extraordinary community that continues to sustain and inspire our work here at Loyola Marymount University. Sociology calls us not only to study society critically, but also to engage the world with compassion, ethical reflection, and a commitment to justice. This year, our students and faculty demonstrated those values through impactful research, community partnerships, service-learning, and thoughtful dialogue on issues ranging from racial equity and migration to housing, public health, and belonging in Los Angeles and beyond. I continue to be inspired by the curiosity, resilience, and dedication our students bring to this work every day.

Our faculty also had an exceptional year of scholarship, mentorship, and service, contributing important research while remaining deeply committed to the intellectual and personal growth of our students. Together, we celebrated graduating seniors, welcomed new majors, hosted a number of meaningful events, and strengthened connections across campus and the broader community. In a time of rapid social change and uncertainty, the mission of sociology – and of Jesuit education – feels more important than ever. Thank you to all of our students, alumni, colleagues, and supporters for being part of this vibrant community. I wish you a restful summer and look forward to the year ahead.

Warmest regards,  
Rebecca Sager

Chair, Department of Sociology  
Loyola Marymount University

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Let us hear from you:  
Newsletter Editor: Dr. Sylvia Zamora  
sylvia.zamora@lmu.edu  
Student Editor: Isabella Chacon

Learn more about the Department:  
[bellarmine.lmu.edu/sociology/](http://bellarmine.lmu.edu/sociology/)

# SOCIOLOGY AT LMU

## What is sociology?

Sociology is the study of the processes and structures that shape social life. Sociologists are interested in social interaction and relationships as well as groups and institutions. We use a variety of methods to investigate the social world, including conducting large surveys, interviewing individuals, examining texts and historical documents, and observing interactions between individuals and groups. Through these methods, sociologists provide critical insights about social reality and the human condition.

The sociology major at LMU serves as a foundation for a broad range of career paths and graduate and professional studies. Our graduates have gone on to careers in social work, community service, communications, project management, mental and public health, and corporate development, among others. The major also prepares students for graduate studies in law, social services, criminal justice, business, health sciences, social sciences, and the humanities.

## Careers in sociology!

### Discover Ideas of What You Can Do with a Sociology Degree Careers in the Public, Private and Nonprofit Sectors

<b>Race, Class &amp; Gender</b> Political Activist Speechwriter/Grant Writer Labor Union Head Civil Servant Vocational Counselor Environmental Public Policy Coordinator Development/Fundraising for Non-Profit Community Organizer Political Campaign Manager Executive Assistant	<b>Conformity, Deviance &amp; Crime</b> Housing Advocate Victim Services Advocate Substance Abuse Program Leader Probation Officer Corrections Supervisor Conflict Negotiator Crime Scene Technician Police Officer	<b>Education &amp; Religion</b> Education Coordinator Student Life Administrator Admissions Coordinator Chaplain Teacher Director of Alumni Relations Clergy person Youth Development Specialist School Counselor	<b>Groups, Networks &amp; Organizations</b> Chief Executive Officer Quality Assurance Manager IT Consultant Human Resources Manager Risk Analyst Office Manager Customer Service Representative Organizational Consultant Market Research Analyst DEIA Consultant
<b>Methods &amp; Data Analysis</b> Pollster Data Scientist Ethnographer Behavioral Strategist Resource Planner & Data Analyst UX Researcher Workforce Planner Statistician	<b>Aging &amp; The Life Course</b> Long-Term Care Facility Activities Director Hospice Worker Geriatric Specialist Home Health Aide	<b>Health &amp; Society</b> Food Pantry Administrator Public Health Researcher Crisis Counselor Health Care Provider Hospital Administrator Epidemiologist Abuse/Addiction Counselor	<b>Media &amp; Culture</b> Event Manager/Planner Sales & Marketing Coordinator Book or Magazine Editor Public Relations Specialist Marketing/Advertising Manager Copywriter Journalist Media Planner
<b>Population, Urbanization &amp; The Environment</b> Demographer Transportation Researcher Urban Planner Immigration Specialist Policy Developer/Advisor	<b>Families &amp; Intimate Relationships</b> Child Welfare Worker Social Worker Guidance Counselor Marriage & Family Therapist	<b>Sociology</b> Sociologist Researcher Sociology Professor	<b>Law &amp; Society</b> Lawyer Paralegal Legal Assistant Fact Checker

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## SOCL 3230 -Applied Community Internship

Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Nathan Sessoms' course, SOCL 3230 Applied Community Internship, matches students as interns with community-based organizations in South Central Los Angeles. In the course, students learn about historical and contemporary South LA and discuss the contemporary relevance of particular locations and areas within the community, while building upon their existing knowledge of social inequalities, urban community dynamics, and the various anti-racist strategies that partnering organizations employ to create more equitable conditions. This semester, students interned with the Jenesse Center, the oldest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in the community, for 6-8 hours per week. Additionally, students discuss and become more familiar with many of the common challenges associated with providing critical services and resources to community members and partner institutions.



# IN THE CLASSROOM

## SOCL 4110 - Religion, Culture, and Society

This spring, students in Professor Sager's Religion, Culture, and Society course (SOCL 4110) traveled to Dublin, Ireland for an immersive week-long exploration of religion, culture, and social change. Through experiential learning and guided reflection, students examined the role of faith in contemporary Irish society while engaging directly with Dublin's rich religious and cultural landscape. Highlights included attending a youth mass in Dublin, meeting with students at Dublin City University and taking a World Religions course, learning from the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, and exploring iconic cultural sites such as Trinity College's Book of Kells. The course combined academic inquiry with meaningful cultural engagement, giving students the opportunity to experience Ireland beyond the classroom. From shared meals and conversations to live Irish music and dance at Johnnie Fox's, students deepened their understanding of religion, community engagement, and cultural change in modern Dublin, while building lasting connections with one another and the city itself.



# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

## 2025 & 2026

### Fall 2025 Welcome Back Event



THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S

# WELCOME BACK EVENT

Connect with Faculty and Classmates

Food and Refreshment Provided

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025  
11:50 - 1:30 PM  
SOCIOLOGY VILLAGE UHALL 4300

Sociology Majors, Minors, and Curious Students — Join Us!  
First-year and transfer students — meet new friends, connect with faculty, and start building your network!

### Fall 2025 Sociology Senior Seminar Projects on Display

**SOCIOLOGY'S SENIOR SEMINAR PROJECTS ON DISPLAY**

UHALL 4300, SOCIOLOGY VILLAGE

OCT 2 2025

11:50AM - 1:30PM

Join us for an engaging preview of the insightful Sociology Senior Seminar projects — come see what's in store for your own academic journey!

FOOD + REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!



### Co-Sponsor: Teach-In Labor in Higher Education



JOIN US FOR A TEACH-IN

# LABOR IN HIGHER EDUCATION

COME FOR PIZZA, STAY TO LEARN

**Featured speakers:**

- Layla Karst, Theological Studies
- Sina Kramer, Women's and Gender Studies
- Nicolas Rosenthal, History
- Bryan Wisch, English

Tuesday, October 7, 12-1:30pm  
McIntosh, UHall 3999

### Co-Sponsor: Redrawing our Future: A Discussion on Proposition 50

LMU  
Loyola Marymount University  
Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts

The Bellarmine Forum is an annual celebration of the life of the mind in relation to LMU's mission and heritage. Each year, the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts offers a series of conversations, events and interactive activities that engage a larger portion of the campus.

2025-26 Bellarmine Forum Presents

## Redrawing our Future: A Discussion on Proposition 50

Election day is near and Proposition 50 is on the ballot! Texas recently voted to red as its congressional district boundaries in an effort to increase the number of Republican representatives in response. California voters will vote on Proposition 50 to decide whether CA will red as its congressional districts in an effort to increase the number of Democratic representatives. This event will provide attendees with an understanding of Proposition 50, what is at stake, and how Angelenos are responding.

**Speakers**

**Fernando J. Guerra**, Study, A. Director and Professor of Chicano and Latino Studies and Political Science and International Relations, Loyola Marymount University

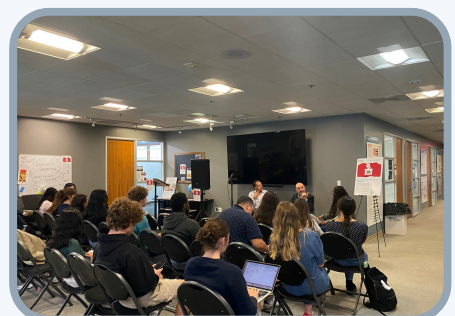
**Justin Lewis**, Professor of Law and Gerald T. McLaughlin Fellow, Loyola Law School

Conversation moderated by Mariah Allen, LMU student, Class of 2026

Tuesday, Oct. 28  
12-1 p.m.  
UH, POLS Village  
Lunch will be provided!

Co-Hosts/Co-Sponsors  
Study, A., Sociology, and Political Science and International Relations

SCAN ME



# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

## 2025 & 2026


### Sociology & Urban and Environmental Studies Joint Event

**Sociology & Urban and Environmental Studies Presents**



**LITHIUM MINES, DATA CENTERS, AI, AND BURNING MAN: EXPLORING THE POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SPATIAL IMPACTS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

Jovanna Rosen  
Assistant Professor of Urban and Environmental Studies



Rebecca Sager (Discussant)  
Professor of Sociology



**NOVEMBER 6, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:00PM**  
UNH 4300, SOCL / UREV VILLAGE  
Food and Refreshments will be provided



**The Spirit's Call to Public Engagement in Challenging Times: Pentecost Now**

PEAKER  
Sister Simone Campbell, SSS



**Monday, November 10, 2025**  
OYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY HALL 1857

3:30PM RECEPTION  
4PM PRESENTATION  
10:00PM Q & A

WITH SUPPORT FROM:  
NATIONAL WEST  
EMPIUS MINISTRY  
OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
CENTER FOR RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY  
OFFICE FOR RECONCILIATION & JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF MISSION  
SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**RSVP HERE**

Sister Simone Campbell (Roman Catholic Sister of Social Service) is a religious leader, attorney, author and recipient of a 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom (the United States' highest civilian honor). She has extensive experience in public policy rooted in the lived experiences of people at the economic margins of society. In addition to being an Emerson Elder with the Emerson Collective, she co-leads "Understanding US" focused on political healing. For 17 years she was executive director of NETWORK, Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and leader of Nuns on the Bus. Her healthcare policy work was seminal in passage of the Affordable Care Act. She has received numerous awards including the "Defender of Democracy Award" from the Parliamentarians for Global Action. Prior to Washington, this native Californian did state advocacy and for 8 years was the founder of the Oakland Community Law Center. Her two award-winning books are *A Nun on the Bus* (2004) and *Hunger for Hope* (2020).

### Co-Sponsor: The Spirit's Call to Public Engagement in Challenging Times

**SPRING 2026 COURSE FAIR**  
NOV 11, 2025 | 12-1PM | UNH 4300

- SOCL 1000 - Principles of Sociology
- SOCL 2000 - Qualitative Research Methods
- SOCL 2100 - Statistics
- SOCL 3000 - Sociological Theory
- SOCL 3110 - Sociological of Sport
- SOCL 3225 - Race in Latin America
- SOCL 3230 - Applied Community Internship
- SOCL 3370 - Sociology of Globalization
- SOCL 3390 - Work and Economic Justice
- SOCL 4103 - Social Psychology and the Law
- SOCL 4900 - Sociology Seminar

**SOCL 4110: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY**  
[TR 1:45-3:25PM]

The study of religion as an expression of culture, its diverse subcultural characteristics as a social institution, and the interrelationship of religion and other social institutions.  
*SOCL 4110 seminar/lecture/lecture/lab/lecture*

**SOCL 3998: SEPCIAL STUDIES**

**SOCL 3998: SS: The Meaning of Tattoos** [W 9-9:20pm]

In this class we will explore what's behind the tattoo you see or have. Do they have a meaning? Why are there tattoos if we are not born with them? Can they be religious?

**SOCL 3998: SS: Social Welfare in the U.S.** [T 6-9:20pm]

The welfare net: What is our societal responsibility to help the underprivileged? How can we achieve greater equity among Americans? This course looks at how social welfare policy evolved and developed in the areas of drug addiction, homelessness, mental illness, veterans' rights, and more.

**SOCL 3998: SS: Community Organizing** [TR 1:45-3:25pm]

This course explores the history, development and complexities central to community organizing work, including outreach, learning, relationship building, social development and strategic and tactical organizing. Additionally, we engage with the history of social movements and popular names associated with them, as well as contemporary examples, and specific efforts aimed at social change. Class assignments will be supplemented with engagement from guest speakers, including local community organizers and leaders from local community-based organizations.

**SOCL 4998: SEPCIAL STUDIES**

**SOCL 4998: SS: Honors Research in Sociology** [MW 3:40-5:20pm]

Students develop an original and independent research project that demonstrates an advanced understanding of sociological research, theory, and methods and contributes to a paper that contributes to sociological knowledge.

**SOCL 4998: SS: Non Profit Sector** [TR 3:40-5:20pm]

Nonprofit organizations play a critical role in society by providing public benefit, including the provision of healthcare, education, housing, and other essential services, over centuries the nonprofit sector has expanded its services to help that they operate, engage in their respective work, and, ultimately, survive, while navigating the challenges associated with an ever-changing society.

For more information about these courses, please visit:  
<https://bulletin.lmu.edu/courses-descriptions.html>

### Spring 2026 Course Fair



### Speaker Event with Dr. Sara I. Villalta



**Sociology Department**

**Dr. Sara I. Villalta**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology



**Interracial Romantic Relationships among Adolescent Girls and Boys: A Forshadowing of Racial Boundary Shifts?**

**NOV 20, 2025 | 12PM-1PM**  
UNIVERSITY HALL 4300  
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

## 2025 & 2026


### Speaker Event with Dr. Hugo Jose Suarez



**Sociology Department**

**Guadalupanos en Paris**  
Presented by Dr. Hugo José Suárez

**Dr. Hugo José Suárez**  
"Guadalupanos in Paris"




Institute of Social Research  
of the National Autonomous  
University of Mexico

**FEB. 10, 2026 | 12PM-1PM**  
**UNIVERSITY HALL 4300**

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Global Policy Institute



THE GLOBAL POLICY INSTITUTE, THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, AND THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

**NARCO-POLITICS IN THE AMERICAS**

Laura Blume, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science and Faculty Member of the Gender, Race, and Identity Program, and Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez, Ph.D., Kellogg Institute Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow share insights on Latin American security.

**MONDAY, FEB. 23, 2026 | 4:00 PM PST | UHALL ECC 1857**

Prof. Laura Blume, a specialist in the economics and the political economy of the war on drugs, and Dr. Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez, a specialist in democratic resilience and the impact of organized crime on governance, share insights on Latin American security.

From the high-profile extradition of Maduro to discussions of military force in Mexico and the renewed investigation of the "Marines Doctrine," Latin America has received heightened media attention. This event goes beyond the news cycle to examine the drug trade, criminal organizations, and their far-reaching consequences for society, politics, and governance across the Americas. Join us for a timely discussion with scholars who have conducted extensive fieldwork in the region, including firsthand interviews with drug traffickers, citizens, and government officials.

RSVP: [bellarmine@lmu.edu/onevent](mailto:bellarmine@lmu.edu/onevent)  
INSTAGRAM: @LMUGPI

### Co-Sponsor: Narco-Politics in the Americas

**SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**SOCI 4110: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY**  
SPRING 2026 BCLA GLOBAL IMMERSION COURSE



**IRELAND POSTER PRESENTATION**

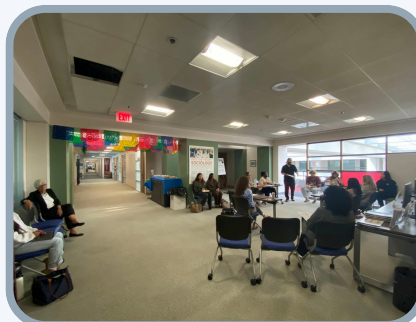
**3/19/26 | 12:00PM - 2:30PM**  
**UNIVERSITY HALL 4300, SOCL VILLAGE**

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED!

### Ireland Poster Presentation



### Exploring Sociology



**EXPLORING SOCIOLOGY**

**Calling All Sociology Majors, Minors, & Prospective Students!**

- Faculty One-on-One Advising/Mentoring
- BCLA Advising
- Learn about course offerings
- Meet the Sociology Society
- Learn about different Sociology and university-wide resources

**Come and get: Food + Beverages + SWAG**


**March 24, 2026 | 12PM-1PM**  
**University Hall 4300, Sociology Village**

# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

## 2025 & 2026

**SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

"Holy Land, holy ink: body marks in Jerusalem and Bethlehem"

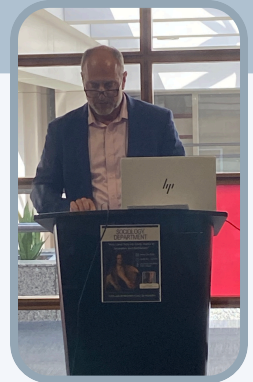


March 26, 2026  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
University Hall 4300 SOCL Village

FEATURING DR. GUSTAVO MORELLO

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Speaker Event with Dr. Gustavo Morello, SJ



### Alumni Panel



**Sociology Department**

**Alumni Panel**

April 7, 2026 | UNH 4300, SOCL Village | 6:00pm - 7:30pm



Gabriela Gonzalez '19  
L.A. County Department of Public Health

Chaiya Jeffries '25  
USC Master of Public Diplomacy Program

Lizbeth Ramales '22  
Legacy College Preparatory Charter School

Explore Sociology careers—learn directly from our alumni!

Free Food & Refreshments!

### Spring 2026 Sociology Senior Seminar Research Projects on Display

**SOCIOLOGY'S SENIOR SEMINAR RESEARCH PROJECTS ON DISPLAY**



UHall 4300, SOCL VILLAGE  
APRIL 29, 2026  
9:00AM - 11:00AM

Curious about the Sociology Seminar experience? Want to see what your friends have been working on? Stop by and get a sneak peek at what's ahead!

SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!



### Color & Calm and End of Spring Lunches

SOCIOLOGY SOCIETY PRESENTS

**COLOR & Calm**

Take a break, unwind, and add a little color to your Tuesday!

JOIN US NEXT **Tuesday** | APRIL 28 | 11:50 AM - 1:30 PM | SOCL VILLAGE

for our Color & Calm social. We'll have coloring books, snacks, and drinks ready for you. All you need to bring is yourself!

All you need to bring is yourself!



**SOCIOLOGY**

**END OF SEMESTER STUDENT LUNCHES**

APRIL 29, 2026

MAY 5, 2026

University Hall 4300, SOCL Village | 12 PM - 1 PM

COME HANG OUT AND GRAB SOME LUNCH WITH US! FREE FOOD, CHILL VIBES, AND RECHARGE!

# ALPHA KAPPA DELTA



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONORS SOCIETY

The Department of Sociology has an active chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociological Honor Society, which was founded in 1920. Its stated purpose is to promote interest in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities leading to the improvement of the human condition.

Each spring the department recognizes those students who meet the academic requirements for membership in Alpha Kappa Delta. The ceremony is a special recognition of the dedication & accomplishments of our students and the support of their families.



### 2026 INDUCTEES

Isabella Abalos	Mia Drew Gresh	Leo Maldonado	Shreeya Sahasrabudhe
Michelle Balasu	Ariana Grigorian	Frida Manubens	Aubrey Sanders
Isabella Chacon	Gavin Jacobsen	Maya Martin	Tryston Stone
Rio Donovan	Isabelle Jamgotchian	Jade Nieland	Brody Tomlinson
Symone Douglas-Holmes	Sydney Lee	Stephanie Pacheco	Jack Urena
Kathryn Duff	Anaya Loving	Matthew Quintana	Brianna Vajnar
Sasha Gold-Mortiz	Pauline Luedorf	Delores Rhaburn	Ayanna Vandewalle

# 2026 STUDENT AWARDS

## BEST STUDENT PAPER

Each year, the Best Student Paper is awarded to one of the papers accepted to be published in the Sociological Eye. The student author of the Best Paper award will receive a check prize of \$100 and a plaque honoring their work. We look forward to receiving future submissions for the 2026 edition of the Sociological Eye!

### Best Paper Award

Congratulations, Cheyenne Wahlheim!

“Addiction, Punishment, and Social Stigma: A Sociological Examination of Recovery within the Criminal Justice System”



### Honorable Mention

Congratulations, Lili Lindahl!

“Adoption Across Race and Borders: Cultural Socialization and Racial Identity in International Adoption”



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HIGHEST MAJOR AND OVERALL GPA

Congratulations, Leo Maldonado!



## STUDENT PARTICIPATION AWARD

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Congratulations, Ariana Grigorian!



# STUDENT GRADUATION HONORS

## Summa Cum Laude

Mia Gresh  
Nora Krikorian  
Leo Maldonado  
Amelia Rodrigues  
Brody Tomlinson  
Cheyenne Wahlheim

## Magna Cum Laude

Madeline Boerstra  
Isabella Castro  
Rio Donovan  
Kathryn Duff  
Ariana Grigorian  
Yasmin Kim  
Elizabeth Lindahl  
Erika Valencia

## Cum Laude

Isabella Abalos  
Symone Douglas-Holmes  
Cassandra Efole  
Emma Ferreyra  
Sarah Gutknecht  
Isabelle Jamgotchian  
Pauline Luedorf  
Frida Manubens  
Ruby Song  
Brianna Vajnar  
Katherine Wastila

## LORETTA MORRIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Loretta Morris Scholarship is the first and only endowed scholarship specifically for sociology students. Each academic year, the faculty of the Department of Sociology selects a sociology major, based on academic merit, as the recipient. If necessary, the department also may consider financial need and community service activity.



CONGRATULATIONS,  
AMELIA RODRIGUES!

## ALPHA SIGMA NU



Alpha Sigma Nu honors students of Jesuit colleges and universities who distinguish themselves in scholarship, loyalty, and service. Candidates must rank in the top fifteen percent of their class. All must meet qualifications of service and loyalty to the Jesuit ideals of higher education.

CONGRATULATIONS,  
JULIANNA AGUIRRE,  
MICHELLE BALASU,  
SYDNEY LEE, AND  
STEPHANIE PACHECO!

# DEAN'S LIST

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Nvard Babikian  
Scarlett Carlson  
Caroline Cox  
Bronwen Dillon

Emma Gonthier  
Willian Kelly  
Yat Shing Lin  
Alicia King-Nga Luk

Lillian Martins  
Sara Pinedo  
Jordan Quan  
Nina Schwartz

Rowan Baum  
Sydney Chapman  
Morgan Gaede  
Adia Jackson  
Emma Kiralla

Ana Milanovic  
Mariam Oganessian  
Mira Schoenberg  
Sofia Vitale  
Carla Worrell

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Havens Adams  
Lucke Alaiti  
Laila Anderson  
Michelle Balasu  
Sasha Gold-Moritz  
Harout Khodzhumyan  
Jayce Nakamura  
Shayna Natanzadeh

Yalda Navab  
Cecilia Perez  
Raha Rahmani  
Tanon Rosenthal  
Aubrey Sanders  
Tryston Stone  
Grace Thao  
Ayanna Vandewalle

Isabella Castro  
Isabella Chacon  
Rio Donovan  
Symone Douglas-  
Holmes  
Kathryn Duff  
Emma Ferreyra  
Mia Gresh  
Ariana Grigorian

Sarah Gutknecht  
Ella Jackson  
Isabelle Jamgotchian  
Yasmin Kim  
Nora Krikorian  
Sydney Lee  
Elizabeth Lindahl  
Pauline Luedorf

Leo Maldonado  
Frida Manubens  
Jade Nieland  
Stephanie Pacheco  
Amelia Rodrigues  
Ruby Song  
Brody Tomlinson  
Katherine Wastila

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# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Cheyenne Wahlheim ('26)



Awarded a Presidential Citation at the 2026 Student Academic, Service, Leadership and Awards.

Received funding from the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office to support her unpaid summer internship with the Innocence Project.



Accepted an offer from Seattle University Law School and will start this fall.



**Jeny Anaya** ('28) received a Sr Mary Genino Fellowship: Finding Purpose in Serving the Community - Loyola Marymount University Newsroom  
<https://newsroom.lmu.edu/campusnews/sr-mary-genino-fellowship-lmu-student-reflection/>



**Riley Broughton** ('25) is enrolled in the Master of Sustainability Management program at the University of Southern California.



**Kathryn Duff** ('26) is entering the PhD program in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.



**Amber Kha** ('23) is enrolled in the Pepperdine Graduate School of Education and Psychology for Elementary Teaching and Education.



**Gianna Mack** ('22) graduated with her Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Pepperdine University and now works there as a Senior Admissions Counselor.

**Frida Manubens** ('26) will go to Madrid, Spain for a nine-month program through CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange). Frida will participate in the Teach in Spain Program, where she will assist teachers at a public school while becoming fully immersed in Spanish culture.



**Megan Mingo** ('24) was accepted into Howard Law School.



**Michele Shulman** ('26) has accepted an offer from the Pepperdine University in Clinical Psychology Program with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Therapy and will be starting the program this fall.

**Erika Valencia** ('26) has been hired by the CHUBB Associate Program, which is a two year program for early career professionals.



**Emily Wallack** ('23) will be attending University of Southern California in the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy program this fall.

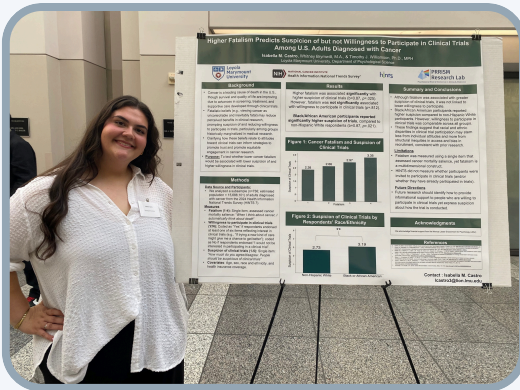


**Nelly Zarella** ('24) is enrolled in the Master's of Social Welfare Program at University of California, Los Angeles.

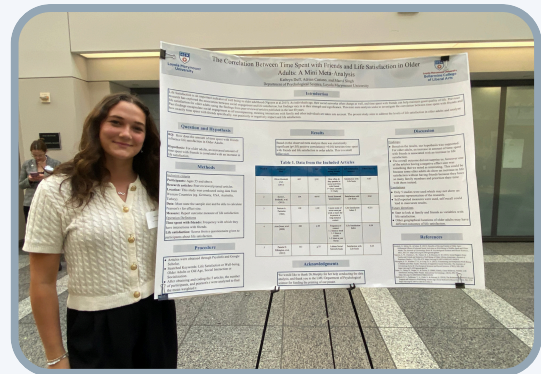
# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

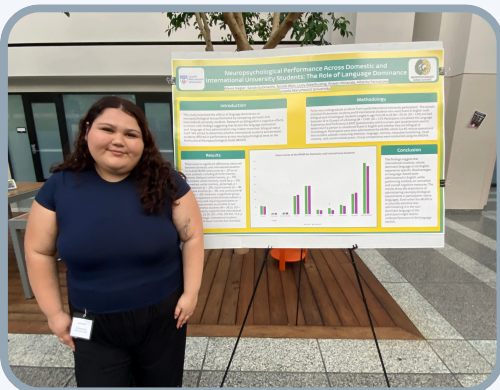
The annual Undergraduate Research Symposium is a chance for undergraduate students to present what they have learned through their research experiences to a larger audience. The Undergraduate Research Symposium provides an excellent opportunity for all members of the LMU community to actively engage with students who have been immersed in thought-provoking questions and challenging global issues. The Symposium includes an art showcase, poster sessions, and presentation sessions by students from all academic disciplines.



**Isabella Castro:** “Higher Fatalism Predicts Suspicion of but not Willingness to Participate in Clinical Trials among U.S. Adults Diagnosed with Cancer”



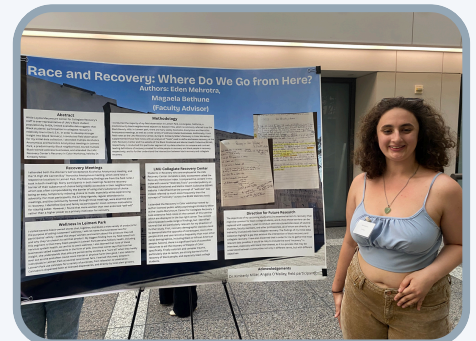
**Kathryn Duff:** “The Correlation Between Time Spent with Friends and Life Satisfaction in Older Adults: A Mini Meta-Analysis”



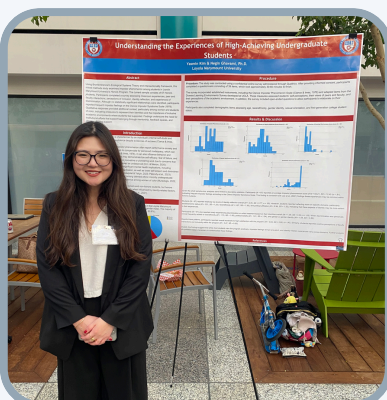
**Sarah Gutknecht:** “Neuropsychological Performance Across Domestic and International University Students: The Role of Language Dominance”



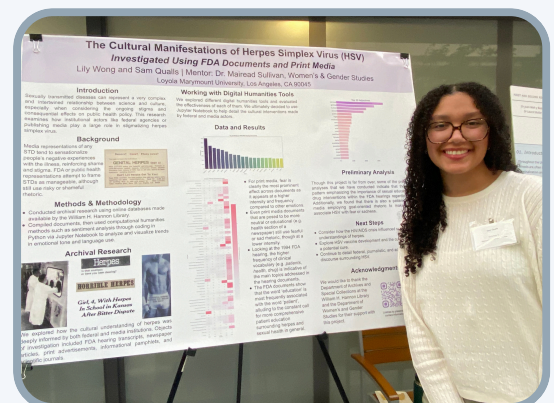
**Morgan Keating:** “Reframed Not Dismantled: Mother Blame in Disability, Genetics, and Memoirs”



**Eden Mehrotra:** “Race and Recovery: Where Do We Go from Here?”



**Yasmin Kim:** “Understanding the Experiences of LMU Honors Students”



**Sam Qualls:** “Herpes: A Cultural Biography”

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## THE SOCIOLOGY SOCIETY

The Sociology Society is a student group composed of sociology majors and minors that sponsor regular gatherings for LMU students. The Sociology Society is open to all sociology majors and minors and typically hosts several events per year, including a Welcome Back event and Career Night, an annual event for sociology students to hear from a panel of recent alumni about their experiences after graduation.



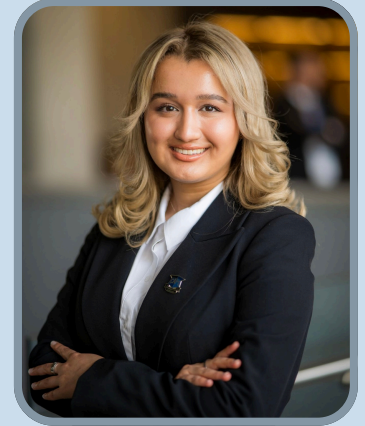
**Ariana Grigorian**  
President



**Danielle Santos Navas**  
Vice President



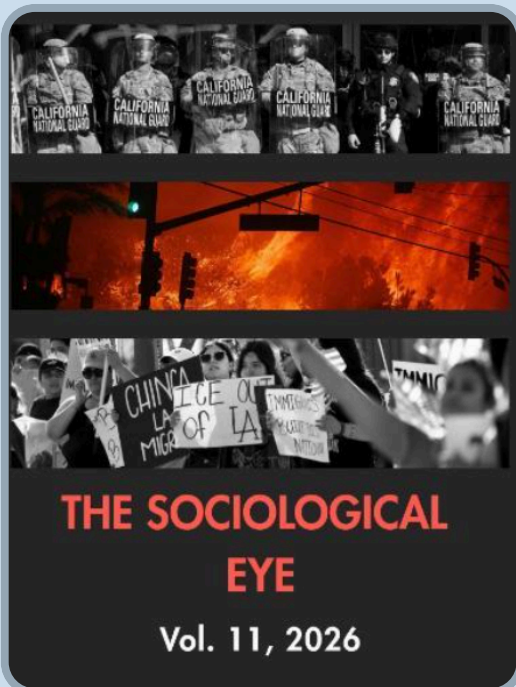
**Abby Nelson**  
Secretary



**Valerie Hernandez-Nieblas**  
Social Media Manager

*If you would like more information about the Sociology Society, please contact Dr. Nate Sessoms at [Nathan.Sessoms@lmu.edu](mailto:Nathan.Sessoms@lmu.edu).*

## THE SOCIOLOGICAL EYE STUDENT JOURNAL



The Sociological Eye is an academic journal, published by the Sociology Department, focusing on the scholarly work produced by LMU undergraduates. Any paper or research is eligible for consideration of inclusion in the journal, so long as the subject matter is sociological in nature.

In addition to being an exciting opportunity to publish your research and academic work, the “Best Student Paper” award recipient will be selected from the papers accepted for publication. The recipient of this award will receive a check prize of \$100 and a plaque at the spring Alpha Kappa Delta induction ceremony in April.

Student Editor: Lili Lindahl  
Faculty Editor: Dr. Eric Magnuson  
Design and Layout: Lili Lindahl

*For more details, please email the faculty advisor for the journal, Dr. Eric Magnuson at [Eric.Magnuson@lmu.edu](mailto:Eric.Magnuson@lmu.edu).*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## GIANNA SEGURA '25



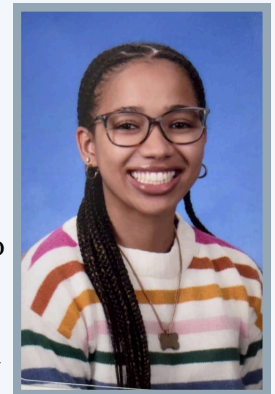
Gianna Segura graduated in May 2025 from the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. As part of her time at LMU, she worked with ArtSmart as an art teacher, where she taught students ranging from elementary through middle school, fostering creativity and self-expression across age groups. Since graduating, Gianna has worked as a Foster Care Case Planner at New Alternatives for Children, where she supports children and families navigating the foster care system. In this role, she advocates for the well-being and stability of youth, coordinates services, and works closely with families to promote safe and supportive environments.

In addition to her professional work, Gianna volunteers with The Bowery Mission, where she contributes to serving individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

## CHAIYA JEFFRIES '25

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Bachelor's of Sociology at LMU class of 2025, Master of Public Diplomacy at USC class of 2027.

During my time at LMU, I was a member of Alpha Phi and studied abroad twice, in Greece and Italy. I also worked on campus with Intramural Sports. Since graduation: I got a puppy named Paisley as a graduation gift, and she just turned 1. I've gone to 2 national parks (Sequoia and Joshua Tree) with her and take her to the beach or on hikes almost every day. I rarely did things alone or that much before I had her, but now I do a lot of those hikes and go to the beach with just her and me, so I'm more active, independent, and responsible in some ways. I recently took her on the train to Irvine to celebrate her birthday. I have also been working at a restaurant for almost 4 years, so I have continued working there post-grad, and this semester I just got a job on campus at USC, too. For my career goals, I really want to work in global security, focusing on human trafficking and child rights. But right now, as part of gaining experience and learning more, I am interested in sports diplomacy, specifically with women's sports, or advocating for specific countries to participate in the Olympics and other worldwide sports events that are usually excluded, or I'd love to work in sports safety and security operations.



## HEATHER SCHACHER '19



I am originally from the Bay Area, but I currently still live in Los Angeles. I graduated in 2019 from LMU with a B.A in Sociology, and was also the program scholar of the major that year. At the same time, I also earned my secondary teaching credential in mathematics and went on to become a Math Teacher at Animo Watts College Preparatory Academy, where I am still working. Since graduating with a B.A in Sociology, my main passion is the sociology of education, and understanding how different societal systems and structures impact educational outcomes. I advocate for students and education equity to ensure that all students, regardless of race, class, socioeconomic status, etc., can receive a high-quality education to be able to pursue post-secondary education. I currently serve as the Math Department Chair, and also serve as the Alumni Champion, where I support students during their college endeavors, as most of our graduates will be first-generation college students. Additionally, I returned to LMU for my Master's Degree, and earned my M.A in School Administration and a school administrator credential.

During my time at LMU, I also participated in an alternativebreaks trip with the Center for Service and Action, where I traveled to Guatemala, and I also support a similar program on my school's campus, currently called Global Glimpse. As a volunteer mentor for this program, I run leadership workshops and lead discussions with students on a variety of topics such as global citizenship and intersectionalities of privilege. At the culmination of this program, my students travel with Global Glimpse for 11 days to a Latin American Country where they are without internet connection and immerse themselves in the experiences of a new community and culture, with other students from the Los Angeles region outside of our school site.

# NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## WELCOME, DR. ROBERTA ESPINOZA!

Professor Roberta Espinoza is excited to join the sociology faculty at LMU after serving for seven years in university leadership as Vice Provost for Global-Local Affairs and Associate Provost for International Programs and Partnerships. A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Espinoza brings to the department a deep commitment to equity, access, and student success in higher education. She earned her doctoral degree in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, where she developed a strong foundation in the study of educational inequality and institutional transformation.



Dr. Espinoza's research sits at the intersection of race, class, and educational opportunity, with particular attention to how systems of support—and barriers—shape student experiences. Her work examines how institutional practices and policies can either expand or restrict access to resources, belonging, and academic success for historically marginalized students. Grounded in a commitment to social justice, her scholarship seeks to illuminate pathways toward more equitable and inclusive educational environments.

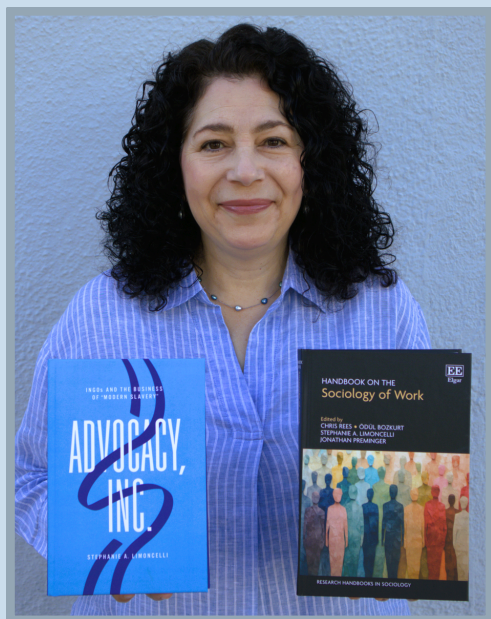
In connection with her research, Dr. Espinoza is deeply passionate about teaching and mentorship. She strives to create classroom spaces that affirm students' identities, encourage critical thinking, and connect sociological theory to lived experience. She is especially committed to supporting first-generation and minoritized students as they navigate higher education and develop their own academic and professional pathways.

### FUN FACTS

- I am the first in my family to attend college!
- I was the ASB President in high school!
- I have run the LA Marathon!



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



DR. STEPHANIE  
LIMONCELLI

Professor Limoncelli has been with the Department of Sociology since 2010, focusing on issues of work, labor exploitation, and international organizations. She regularly teaches courses on work and labor in the global economy; human trafficking; and sociological theory, and she recently taught in the Odyssey Summer Program in Greece, a wonderful experience that she highly recommends! She is thankful that her teaching and research activities have given her the opportunity to travel to many different countries and publish her work in sociology, labor studies, political science and human trafficking journals. She also recently authored or co-edited three books – the two most recent, the Handbook on the Sociology of Work (Edward Elgar) and Advocacy Inc.: INGOs and the Business of “Modern Slavery” (Stanford University Press) were published within a few months of each other and are hot off the presses!



DR. RACHEL  
WASHBURN

Professor Rachel Washburn is a member of the Sociology Department and Founding Director of the Health and Society Program. Her areas of expertise are health, biomedicine, science and technology, and qualitative research methods. Dr. Washburn has carried out research on the politics of measuring environmental chemicals in people and is currently working with an LMU alum on a project that examines racial bias in pulse oximetry research. She has co-authored three books on Situational Analysis, a qualitative research method that facilitates analyses of complexity and heterogeneity in situations of inquiry. Dr. Washburn's favorite part of being a professor at LMU is the opportunity to work closely with students on research projects. She is also enthusiastic about teaching the social determinants of health and helping students to understand that what we know about health is shaped by an array of social forces. Outside of work, she loves to garden, hike in the San Gabriel Mountains, and spend time with friends and family.



# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## PUBLICATIONS

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah. 2025. "Resisting Heteroarchy in the United States: Queer Women's Attitudes Toward Marriage." *Soc. Sci* 14(4): 228.

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah and Celeste Curington. 2025. "The Search for Interracial Love Online: Black Women's Experiences." In S. Raghunadan, R. Moodley, and K. Kenney (Eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Interracial Relationships and Mental Health* (pp. 462-473).

Burns, Stacy. 2025. "Social Problems and Social Control: The Case of Abortion" (with M. Peyrot), Pp. 241-255 in *Democracy, Governance, and Law*, vol. 29 of *Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance*, edited by Mathieu Deflem. Emerald Publishing: Leeds, UK.

Burns, Stacy. "Sacks and Garfinkel, Early On," for *Przegląd Socjologiczny* (translated as *Sociological Review*), in Special Issue Honoring Harvey Sacks, vol. 74, No. 3: 37-54, 2025.

Burns, Stacy. 2025. "Practicing Law: A Study of Pedagogic Interchange in a Law School Classroom," originally published in 1997 in the collection *Law in Action* (edited by Travers and Manzo), translated into Japanese by Takanori Kitamura, et al., and published under the title *Ethnomethodology of Law: Sociology of Law in the 'Living Order'*. Shinyosha (Xinyao Society): Tokyo, Japan. ISBN 9784788518803.

Burns, Stacy. 2026. A "How I Came to EMCA." *American Sociological Association, EMCA Section*, vol. 17, No. 2: 7, Winter 2026 Issue.

Hansen, Christopher, Leah Christian, Erin Fordyce, and Bryn David. 2025. "Does Varying the Order of Sexual Orientation Response Categories Change Population Estimates? Findings from a Nationally Representative Study of U.S. Adults." *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, Vol 13, No. 1. 3-17.

Vezalednos, Victoria, David R. Schaefer, Deborah Rivas-Drake, Adriana J. Umaña-Taylor, Sara I. Villalta, and Bernardette J. Pinetta. 2025. "Predictors of Biracial Adolescent Ethnic-Racial Identity Salience." *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 35(1): e70012.

Washburn, Rachel and Carrie Friese. 2025. "Remembering Adele Clarke: 1945-2024." *Zeitschrift für Qualitative Forschung (ZQF)*, 26(1): 8-11.

# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## NEW BOOK

Limoncelli, Stephanie A. 2026. *Advocacy Inc. INGOs and the Business of “Modern Slavery.”* Stanford University Press.

Rees, Chris, Ödül Bozkurt, Stephanie Limoncelli, and Jonathan Preminger (eds). 2025. *Handbook on the Sociology of Work*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Hansen, Christopher and Ipek Bilgen. July 2025. "Examination of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Measurement in a U.S. Probability-based Multi-purpose Panel." Paper presented at the European Survey Research Association Conference. Utrecht, Netherlands.

Hansen, Christopher. August 2025. "Advancing Theory and Method Through an Analysis of Dyadic Child-Parent Survey Responses of Gender." Paper presented as part of the "Femininities and Masculinities" session at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

Hansen, Christopher. 2026. "Gender Expression Among Youth and Young Adults: Self-Reported Femininity and Masculinity in a Recent Nationally Representative Survey," paper presented at the American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California.

Villalta, Sara I. 2025. "Interracial Romantic Relationships among Adolescent Girls and Boys: A Foreshadowing of Racial Boundary Shifts?," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

## PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC SERVICE

Muraco, Anna. 2025-Present. Editorial Board Member, *Sex and Sexualities Journal*, an American Sociological Association Journal published by Sage.

## NEWS, MEDIA, AND INVITED TALKS

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah. Invited Guest. "Dating in the Digital Age and Black in the Ivy League with Dr. Sarah Adeyinka-Skold," September 22nd, 2025.

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah. Blog post in The Society Pages by Council on Contemporary Families entitled, "Queer Women and the Question of Marriage in the United States: Desire, Ambivalence, Resistance," July 15th, 2025.

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah. Interview in Rolling Stone entitled, "Dating Coaches Are on the Rise. Some Women Are Investing Thousands," June 30th, 2025.

Zamora, Sylvia. Zócalo Public Square, "Teaching Deportation History to Meet the Moment." Dec. 11, 2025.

Zamora, Sylvia. "The LA We Are, The LA We're Becoming." Faculty Panelist, Bellarmine Forum, 2025.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Adeyinka-Skold, Sarah. 2025. Review of *Not My Type: Automating Sexual Racism in Online Dating* by Apryl Williams. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Limoncelli, Stephanie A. 2025. Global Engagement Vision Awards from the office of International Programs and Partnerships (IPP).

Muraco, Anna. 2026. Research and Writing Grant, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, LMU. “The COVID Generation; Young People’s Experience Shaped by the Covid-19 Pandemic.”

Muraco, Anna. 2026. Certificate of Appreciation — In recognition of 20 years of service.

Sager, Rebecca. 2026. Rains Award for Excellence in Service.

Sager, Rebecca. 2026. Popiden Distinguished Faculty Service Award.

Villalta, Sara I. 2026. Research and Writing Grant, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, LMU. “Skin Color Homophily in Adolescent Friendship Networks.”

Washburn, Rachel. 2025. Research and Writing Grant, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, LMU. “The Significance of Skin Tone and Race in the Science of Pulse Oximetry (In)Accuracy: A Critical Examination.”

Zamora, Sylvia. 2025. Summer Faculty Fellowship, LMU Center for the Study of Los Angeles/BCLA. “Assessing the Perceptions and Experiences of Altadena Households Impacted by the LA Wildfires.”

Zamora, Sylvia. 2026. Certificate of Appreciation — In recognition of 10 years of service.

## SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT FACULTY RETREAT



Held on August 21, 2025  
at the Marina Del Rey  
Hotel.



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
DR. SARAH ADEYINKA-SKOLD  
ON RECEIVING TENURE AND PROMOTION!