

2023 SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LMU SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2023

UNH 4300

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Let us hear from you:

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Learn more about the Department:
bellarmine.lmu.edu/sociology/

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni,
Faculty, and Staff,

Congratulations to the LMU Class of 2023 Sociology majors and minors! You have persevered through many challenges to your educational experiences and I'm so glad that you have been in the department with us as you move on from this part of your journey. I am also moving on from my three and a half years as Department Chair, which were eventful, challenging, and rewarding. In mid-May, Professor Rebecca Sager will be resuming the Sociology Department Chair position for one year, so continuing students should send questions and signature requests her way.

In other exciting news, the Sociology Department is adding two new tenure line faculty members: Dr. Sarah Adeyinka-Skold whose research focuses on race and relationships in the digital age, and Dr. Sara Villalta whose research addresses children's friendship networks and race. In Fall 2023, Dr. Adeyinka-Skold will teach SOCL 3120, Gender and Society and Dr. Villalta is teaching the two sections of SOCL 1000, Principles of Sociology listed as being taught by "Faculty." Please join us in welcoming them to campus in the fall.

Finally, we thank Richard Morris for his additional generous donation to fund the Loretta Morris Endowed Scholarship for sociology majors. Loretta Morris was a professor in the Sociology Department from 1975-2005, when she retired. While at LMU, she helped establish the Center for Teaching Excellence and taught courses about marriage, families, and childhood. Dr. Morris was inducted into the LMU Faculty Hall of Fame in 2017 after being nominated by her former students. Prior to teaching at LMU, Dr. Morris was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement, rallied priests and nuns to attend the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery and helped integrate parochial schools in the southern U.S. Professor Morris died in 2020 and her husband, Richard Morris created an endowed scholarship for sociology majors who are rising seniors with a demonstrated record of academic excellence. We thank Richard for the generations of LMU sociology students to come who will benefit from his generosity.



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

2022-2023

WELCOME BACK EVENT

September 25th, 2022



ALUMNI EVENT

April 20th, 2023



The Sociology Society hosted their annual alumni event featuring three alumni from the Class of 2022: **Judith Cardenas (Consultant/Rising Communities), Mirian Melendez (Case Manager/Homeboy Industries), Athena Muro (Administrative Legal Assistant/Homeboy Industries).**

COME LEARN ABOUT SOCIOLOGY & CHAT WITH FELLOW SOCL STUDENTS & ALUMNI!

Enjoy free food and beverages, get sociology swag, learn about career paths, and make new friends!

Thursday, April 20th |
6:00-7:30pm
SOCL Conference Room
University Hall, Room 4304



HONORING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

Despite the undeniable fact that Indigenous communities are among the most affected by climate devastation and that we have much to learn from millennia of Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous ways of knowing are nowhere to be found in mainstream environmental policy or discourse. In this presentation hosted by the Bellarmine Forum, Dr. Jessica Hernandez presented ways in which we can honor Indigenous ways of knowing.

IN THE CLASSROOM- SOCL 3232

Taught by Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Nathan Sessoms, SOCL 3232, Community, matches students as interns with community-based organizations in South Los Angeles, as they embark on their anti-racist missions. In the course, students learn about historical and contemporary South Los Angeles, 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. Students intern with the organizations for 6-8 hours per week for several weeks during the semester. Additionally, students attend a field trip to various locations in South Los Angeles and discuss many of the common challenges associated with providing critical services and resources to community members and community institutions. This course is being taught again in Summer Session II and Fall 2023 and will be offered in future semesters as SOCL 3230, Applied Community Internships.



Community Class tour of South LA and Watts

"As an Intern at the Jenesse Center, a domestic violence prevention and intervention program in South Los Angeles, I gained valuable experience in the field of mental health. My training on the hotline was particularly eye-opening, as I listened to a diverse range of over twenty calls and witnessed, firsthand, how trained professionals provide resources and support to callers."

-Emily Daigle '22



ALPHA KAPPA DELTA



INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONORS SOCIETY

2023 INDUCTEES

Valentina Araya
Matilda Beltz
Grace Bolander
William Brennan
Maria Chavarri Calvo
Rosa Colchado
Athena DeMarzo
Gabriella Dibono
Leonardo Dominguez Ortega

Kelly Donatucci
Caitlin Donatucci
Dara Galvan
Ruby George
Tessa Gin
Emerson Harris
Keli Leaupepe
Megan Mingo
Kevin Pineda
Jaime Reed-Kerr

Nicole Rodriguez
Garik Sayadkhanyan
Margaret Scroggs
Kayla Smith
Logan Soderling
Elizabeth Sullivan
Anna Tullie
Emily Wallack
Christian Yonan



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. Over the years we have had a number of distinguished guest speakers for the occasion, including Dr. Laurence Bobo (LMU Sociology '79)— who has recently been appointed Dean of Social Science at Harvard University—and Judge Frederick Lower, former Dean of the Loyola School of Law. The evening is a special recognition of the dedication & accomplishments of our students and the support of their families.

Please Contact Dr. Eric Magnuson at eric.magnuson@lmu.edu for more info!

2023 STUDENT AWARDS



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AWARD HIGHEST MAJOR AND OVERALL GPA

Congratulations,
Leonardo Dominguez
Ortega!

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 cash prize of \$100 and a plaque honoring their work. We look forward to receiving future submissions for the 2024 edition of the Sociological Eye!



2023 Paper Awards

Best Paper Award Cheyenne Wahlheim

"Mass Incarceration as a System
of Oppression Explained by
Conflict Theory"

Honorable Mention Veronica Gomez

"Analyzing How Being a First-
Generation College Student
Affects an Individual's Political
Participation"



STUDENT AWARDS



Student Graduation Honors

Summa Cum Laude

Leonardo Dominguez Ortega
Ruby Sophia George
Olivia Therese Lee
Margaret Ann Scroggs

Magna Cum Laude

Veronica Catalina Gomez
Maria Chavarri Calvo
Valentina Araya
Elizabeth Mei Lin Iribarren
Amani Arianna Ortiz-Syed
Denise Espinoza
Jaimeson Alexandra Reed-Kerr
Candie Allison Khoe
Diego De La Torre Rodriguez
William Christopher Brennan
Gabriella Rose DiBono

Cum Laude

Athena Davyne
DeMarzo
Sydney Sophia Rojas
Rosa Lizbeth Colchado
Ryan Lee Moses
Kayla Paige Smith
Carisa Aguilera-
Dupnik
Sayde Rykiel Surratt

2023 Presidential Citation

Congratulations, Veronica Gomez!



LMU UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2023



Amani Ortiz-Syed
 “Immigration and Incarceration: A Sociological Exploration of Systems of Detention with Insight from Costa Rica.”
 Mentor: Anna Muraco



Sabrina Isaacs
 “Considering Identity-Affirming Care for Older LGBT Adults in Assisted Living.”
 Mentor: Anna Muraco



STUDENT ACOMPLISHMENTS



The Pacific Sociological Association's 94th Annual Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington, 2023.



Veronica Gomez, a senior Sociology major and McNair Scholar, presented her paper, "Analyzing How Being a First-Generation College Student Impacts Political Participation."

Amani Ortiz Syed, a Sociology major also presented her research her poster, "Immigration and Detention: A Sociological Exploration of Detention."

Gomez ('23) and Ortiz Syed ('23) at the Pacific Sociological Association Conference

Veronica Gomez and Judith Chavez-Cardenas volunteered at the Society for the Study of Social Problems conference and participated in the conference sessions in Los Angeles last August 2022.



Veronica Gomez ('23) and Judith Chavez-Cardenas ('23)

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LMU'S WCC MEDIA DAY REPRESENTATIVES



Rodriguez

Leaupepe

Sociology majors and student athletes, Nicole Rodriguez ('24) and Keli Leaupepe ('23) were chosen to represent the LMU at the West Coast Conference's Media Day for both the Women's and Men's Basketball team.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Hector Ortega ('21) was accepted to a J.D. program to study Law at Western State College of Law!



Diana Gaitan ('21) was accepted to LMU's Master's Program in Educational Counseling!

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Inaugural Voyager Scholarship Recipient

Simret Habte is among the first recipients of the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, also known as the Voyager Scholarship, which provides support for future leaders with a passion for building community and helping others.



Awards were given to 100 rising college juniors who plan to pursue careers in public service. They include up to \$50,000 in financial aid, a funded summer voyage to pursue a work-travel experience between junior and senior year, a fall convening where they will meet with former President Obama and Chesky to discuss the role of empathy and understanding in leadership and public service, and access to a network of leaders.

DEAN'S LIST 2023

Veronica Gomez*
Amani Ortiz-Syed*
Denise Espinoza*
Alexa Vidal
Riley Broughton
Michelle Feda
Emma Ferrerya
Cassie Efole
*Dean's List every semester at
LMU



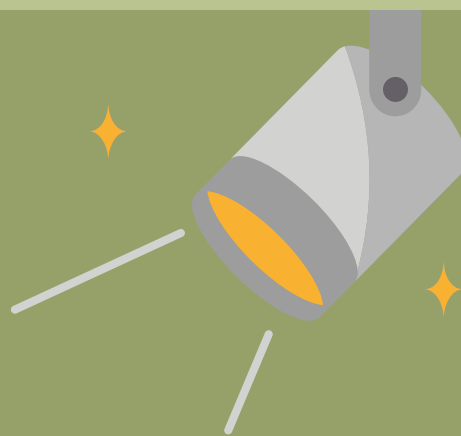
Alexa Vidal '26



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Gabriela Gonzalez '19



Gabriela Gonzalez graduated from LMU in 2019 with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. In summer of 2022, she served as the Race and Equity Intern with Expecting Justice, a San Francisco based collaborative addressing pregnancy

disparities. Her writing on that experience was published in a Maternal and Child Health blog. Currently, she is a 2nd year Masters of Public Health (MPH) student specializing in Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) at UC Berkeley. She is passionate about reproductive justice and maternal health equity. Her career goals include policy and advocacy work related to Black maternal health equity and increasing access to community doulas

We would love to hear from you! Send us your updates at sociology@lmu.edu

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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

If you would like more information about the Sociology Society and its events, please contact Professor Nate Sessoms at nate.sessoms@lmu.edu



Executive Board Members:

Gianna Segura ('25) & Valentina Araya ('23)



Sociology Society Alumni Event

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 cash prize of \$100 and a plaque at the spring Alpha Kappa Delta induction ceremony in April. For more info email the faculty advisor for the journal, Professor Stacy Burns at stacy.burns@lmu.edu

Student Editor: Katie Flint

Faculty Editors: Stacy Burns & Rebecca Sager

Design and Layout: Katie Flint

Faculty Spotlight



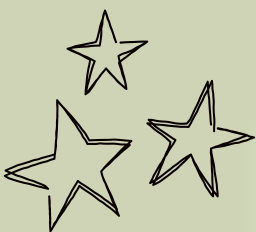
Dr. Cassie Comley

Professor Cassie Comley has been teaching at LMU for three years. Prior to LMU, she worked for the Orange County Department of Education, Orange Coast Community College, and The University of Washington. Over the past 15 years, she has worked with and studied historically marginalized communities in Los Angeles. She was the first in her family to go to college and is a first-generation scholar of color. At a young age, she wanted to be in law enforcement and pursued a Criminology degree at Cal State University, Long Beach. She volunteered at a local women's shelter in Long Beach and quickly realized she wanted to do more than volunteer. She decided to pursue a graduate degree in Sociology to better understand how intimate partner violence is connected to larger societal forces.

FUN FACTS!

I love backpacking, hiking, and camping with my rescue dog, Kalama. When I am not with her, you can find me running, cycling, swimming, or surfing. I completed Ironman 70.3 Santa Cruz last year and am currently training for the next year's race.

Dr. Comley holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Oregon. She focuses on social inequalities in sports, specifically gender, and race at the interactional level. Her recent scholarship centers on how Mexican Americans experience structural and interactional forms of racism and sexism in public sporting spaces. In her year of fieldwork, she performed participant observations and in-depth interviews with Southern Californian Mexican American surfers. Her work sheds light on the broader processes by which marginalized populations come to develop racialized and gendered feelings of belonging or exclusion in recreational spaces. She finds that Mexican American surfers navigate predominantly white, heterosexual, male, and able-bodied sporting spaces and argues that Mexican Americans engage in sporting activities as a means to break out of racialized, classed, and gendered categories. Mexican Americans use sports, in other words, to contest race, class, sex, sexuality, and gender-based ideologies and to create a sense of community and identity. In so doing, they construct empowering transgressive spaces and new ways of being.



Words of Wisdom: “You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn to surf”-Jon Kabat-Zinn

Welcome!



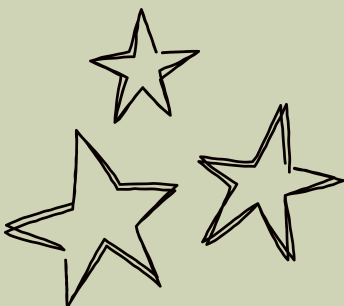
Dr. Sarah Villalta

Dr. Sara Villalta, originally from Riverside, CA, is a graduate from the University of California, Riverside, earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Irvine, and is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. Positioned at the intersection of race and ethnicity, educational stratification, social networks, and adolescent peer relationships, Dr. Villalta's research quantitatively interrogates how social structure influences ties between people and how those ties, in turn, replicate social inequality in the United States.

While an avid and distinguished researcher, Dr. Villalta's research endeavors have not eclipsed her passion for teaching and mentorship as she continues to design innovative methods that integrate students into her research in meaningful and formative ways.

FUN FACTS!

- Loves to travel and has visited 5 continents!
- Enjoys reading classic literature!
- Is a dedicated runner!



Welcome!



Dr. Adeyinka-Skold

Dr. Adeyinka-Skold (AKA Dr. Sarah) is excited to join the sociology faculty at LMU! She was formerly an assistant professor of Sociology at Furman University. She earned her sociology doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on how relationship formation in the United States reveals racial, gender, and sexuality inequality. In short, she does research on dating and relationships in the digital age! Her work has been published in academic forums such as the DuBois Review and Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, and edited books. Dr. Sarah's work has also sparked the interest of non-academic venues and popular media figures interested in Black women's experiences. Her research about dating in the digital age debuted in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the city's largest newspaper. Dr. Sarah's research has also been featured in Elle and Women's Health and she was a guest on The Laverne Cox Show, a podcast where she and Laverne discussed dating, relationships, and being Black.

Dr. Sarah is glad to be back home in Los Angeles with her husband Wes, her two children (Rex and Ace), and their dog, Toast. She grew up in Downey and Santa Fe Springs but is looking forward to living and working near the beach. When not ear hustling about dating and relationships, Dr. Sarah can be found playing spelling word games on her phone, napping, watching reality tv (Love is Blind anyone???), doomscrolling on Twitter, and running around with her kiddos.

FUN FACTS!

- She interned with Ethan Hawke's mother, Leslie Hawke, at her organization Ovidiu Rom in Bucharest, Romania
- She's a Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- She interned during college at Sony Studios and Warner Bros.



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PUBLIC TALKS

Professor Sylvia Zamora's Book Talks (2023)

Racial Baggage: Mexican Immigrants and Race Across the Border

- The Latinx Research Center, UC Berkeley
- LMU Faculty Pub Night, Hannon Library
- Race/Ethnicity Working Group, UCLA Sociology
- Political Science Department, UCLA

PUBLICATIONS

Adler Jr, G. J., Ortiz, S. E., Plutzer, E., Mayrl, D., Coley, J. S., & Sager, Rebecca. (2021). Religion at the frontline: How religion influenced the response of local government officials to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Sociology of Religion*, 82(4), 397-425.

Sylvia Zamora and Nadia Kim. 2023. "Can't We All Finally Get Along?: Public Opinion on Race in L.A. Twenty-Five Years After King." In *Disciplinary Futures: Sociology in Conversation with American, Ethnic, and Indigenous Studies*, edited by Pawan Dhingra and Nadia Kim. New York University Press.

Stacy Burns--Social Problems and Social Control in Criminal Justice (with M. Peyrot) (Lynne Rienner Publishers, June 2022).

--"Lay and Professional Competencies: Linking Garfinkel's Tutorial Exercises to a Study of Legal Work," Pp. 43-60 in *The Anthem Companion to Harold Garfinkel* (P. Sormani and D. vom Lehn, Eds.), part of *The Anthem Companion to Sociology* series (Anthem Press, 2023).

IN THE MEDIA, REVIEWS, & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sylvia Zamora. "Racial Baggage: How Anti-Blackness Travels Across the Border." USC Equity Research Institute: Data and Analysis to Power Social Change, Blog. February, 13, 2023.

Sylvia Zamora. Book Review, "South Central Dreams: Finding Home and Building Community in South L.A." by P. Hondagneu-Sotelo and M. Pastor. *City & Community* 00(0) 1-2.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GRANTS, AWARDS, & RECOGNITION

Stacy Burns' book, *Social Problems and Social Control in Criminal Justice* (with M. Peyrot), was favorably reviewed in CHOICE Reviews, March 2023, Vol. 60, No. 7. CHOICE has been the leader in academic reviews for over 50 years, with a searchable archive of almost 200,000 reviews and 2,400 academic libraries relying on CHOICE reviews.

Rebecca Sager 2022. National Science Foundation Sociology (NSF) research grant in summer 2022. They received a total of \$568,773 for their project. Local Government Officials and the Management of Religion-State Relationships in a New Era from the NSF.

Rebecca Sager. 2022. Outstanding Paper Award at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference in 2022 for "Religion at the frontline: How religion influenced the response of local government officials to the COVID-19 pandemic" in *Sociology of religion*, 82(4), 397-425 (with Adler Jr, G. J., Ortiz, S. E., Plutzer, E., Mayrl, D., Coley, J. S., 2021).

Sylvia Zamora received an LMU Ascending Scholar Award in April, 2023. This award was created in 2019 by the Office of the Provost to recognize excellence and promise in faculty scholarship. The award was presented at the Faculty Recognition Ceremony on April 24, 2023.

Sylvia Zamora's book, *Racial Baggage: Mexican Immigrants and Race Across the Border* (Stanford University Press, 2022), was favorably reviewed in *Social Forces*, Volume 101, Issue 4, April 2023.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Stephanie Limoncelli and Zeynep Sisli (2021) "The Right to Life at Work as a Human Right" Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, Porte Alegre, Brazil.

Anna Muraco, Sarah Trainer & Jodi O'Brien (2021) "I Know My Problems Aren't As Serious": Faculty Stress and Inequity in Higher Education pre-and during Covid-19, Pacific Sociological Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS

Sylvia Zamora is serving as elected Council Member of the *American Sociological Association* Latino Sociology Section for a three-year term (2021-2024).