MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

Congratulations to the class of 2021!

What a year it’s been. I’d like to congratulate all of us for persisting through this unprecedented academic year. Most of us never envisioned a year spent quarantined while learning and teaching remotely, but I have been extremely impressed by the flexibility and determination of our students, faculty, and staff. Collectively, we need to take some time to rest and heal from this difficult year, but also to reflect, acknowledge, and celebrate all that we accomplished.

Our amazing students, faculty, and staff are the heart of the Sociology Department. This year, the Sociology Society was revived by a core group of students: Carisa Aguilera-Dupnik, Denise Espinoza, Gianna Mack, Shulin Madrid, and Sami Vasquez. Thank you all for your work. In the fall, please look for announcements from the Sociology Society about meetings and events as we begin our return to campus.

We don’t know the details of what lies ahead in the fall but I am grateful that we have our sociology community and the broader spirit of LMU to buoy us along.

- Professor Muraco
January 20, 2021 marks the day of the Inauguration of America’s 46th President, Joseph R. Biden Jr. As a member of the democratic party, Biden acted as Vice President from 2009-2017 under the Obama administration. President Biden was born in 1942 in Pennsylvania and earned a Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law in 1968. His elected Vice President, Kamala Harris makes American history as being the first woman of color (Black American and South Asian) to hold the office. Vice President Kamala Harris, was born in 1964 in Oakland, California. She previously served in the U.S. senate from 2017-2021 as well as attorney general of California from 2011-2017. With this new dynamic duo in office, America can hope to see bridges built that unites divided groups in our nation.

**Know the Facts**

**Third Time's the Charm**

This was Joseph R. Biden’s third attempt at the presidency. He ran both in 1988 and again in 2008.

**A Year of Firsts**

Kamala Harris is the first woman and the first woman of color to be sworn in as Vice President. Her husband, Doug Emhoff is the first Jewish spouse of either a vice president or a president.
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 Director of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University—and Judge Frederick Lower, former Dean of the Loyola School of Law. The evening is a special recognition of the dedication and accomplishments of our students and the support of their families.

Please Contact Dr. Eric Magnuson for more info!
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 2022 edition of the Sociological Eye!

Winner!

Kyle Friedler
"Pandemic Privilege: Business Policies and Labor Value During COVID-19"

Honorable Mention

Nelson Poon
"An Intersectional Examination of Ethnic Restaurants"

Sociology Department Scholar of the Year, 2021

Nakia King

Scholar of the Year is earned by the student with the highest overall and major grade point average.

Student Honors at Graduation

Summa Cum Laude
Melisa Akvader
Kyle Friedler
Paige Horsely
Nakia King
Jim Philipson

Magna Cum Laude
Katherine Arakkel
Aden Black
Rachel Cheung
Lyann Choi
Galena Cox
Katherine Harrison
Téa Li
Gilbert Nagle
Rachel Ostrom
Toni Williams

Cum Laude
Alexis Canyon
Abigail Dettelbach
Desire Evans
Lizbeth Garcia
Madison Livermore
Lilli Maples
Nina Mirzai
Olivia Morse
Nelson Poon
Julia Pradel
Alexander Rushin

Other Student Awards

Téa Li - Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society
Rachel Ostrom - Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society
Nelson Poon - Raymunde McKay RSHM Award

If you won an award and we missed it, please let us know: sociology@lmu.edu
Nakia King applied to law school in her home state of Florida and was accepted to the University of Florida (fully funded), University of Miami (fully funded) and Stetson. From her top-tier applications, she was accepted to Columbia Law, the University of Chicago Law, Georgetown Law, Duke Law, and Vanderbilt. Nakia decided to attend Duke Law where she negotiated her funding package up to $120K over three years. In so doing, she turned down the $150K funding package offered by Georgetown Law, as well as packages from other schools.

Nina Mirzai was accepted to Southwestern Law, UC San Francisco Law, and UC Hastings Law. Those acceptances came with over $190K in financial aid offers. Nina decided to matriculate at UC Hastings Law.

Aden Black was accepted into the American Studies Master’s program at Pepperdine!
"I was not ready to stop learning and after this year on zoom and I'm itching to get back in the classroom!"

Major Dalton accepted a position at a company called Endeavors as a remote Reunification Case Manager for unaccompanied migrant children at the border. He may also go to grad school in the future, but for the time being, he's just going to enjoy working.

Camille Grundy was accepted into City Year New Orleans.

If we missed your post-grad plans, please let us know: sociology@lmu.edu
Jhia Jackson

Jhia Jackson is an alumna of Loyola Marymount University. Since leaving LMU, Jhia has pursued opportunities in dance, art, and scholarship. She holds a master’s degree in bioethics from Columbia University in New York, and she is presently a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, San Francisco. Jhia’s research interests stem from her experience as a professional dance artist, a commitment to lifelong learning and her personal experiences.

Noteworthy Quotes from Jhia:

"If I can't show up and be present, then I know for a fact we’re missing out on identities, stories, on knowledge, on experiences, on what it actually means to be human"

"It's important when you're going through this grad school process that you are able to find your value and your self-worth in something outside of just your success or non-success in that program.

“Just because I'm in charge, doesn't mean that I know everything. That's actually the whole point is that I should be sitting in humility and asking the questions"
Research has shown prevalence rates for intimate partner violence (IPV) among heterosexual couples and LGBTQ couples remain a public health problem. The existing literature is limited in that it does not focus on IPV perpetration among women and LGBTW military/veteran populations... Findings in this review indicate that numerous individual, social, and economic factors have been associated with a heightened risk of IPV perpetration among females and the LGBTQ military/veteran population... This study provides nuanced information for family counselors, social workers, and behavioral interventionists to gain knowledge about the risk factors for IPV perpetration in women and LGBTQ military populations.

What’s your research?

Research has shown prevalence rates for intimate partner violence (IPV) among heterosexual couples and LGBTQ couples remain a public health problem. The existing literature is limited in that it does not focus on IPV perpetration among women and LGBTW military/veteran populations... Findings in this review indicate that numerous individual, social, and economic factors have been associated with a heightened risk of IPV perpetration among females and the LGBTQ military/veteran population... This study provides nuanced information for family counselors, social workers, and behavioral interventionists to gain knowledge about the risk factors for IPV perpetration in women and LGBTQ military populations.

Denise Espinoza
IPV Perpetration among Women and LGBTQ Military/Veteran Populations

What’s your research affect your career goals?

The culmination of this research opportunity benefits my career aspirations directly by helping me further develop writing and research skill sets. This opportunity contributes to my own aspirations as I plan to attend graduate school and receive a Ph.D. in Social Psychology, focused on mapping family violence and providing culturally and contextual solutions for families at risk.

Any advice for future researchers?

My advice for any students considering research is to focus on concepts that you are passionate about or resonate with you because that is when the best work is produced. Make sure to network and be open with faculty about your aspirations, strengths, and weaknesses to form a strong mentorship to fuel the projects at hand.
How did your research affect your career goals?

"Before starting this research, I had a general idea that I wanted to pursue a career related to public and global health, but I wasn’t sure about the educational opportunities that would be available to me following graduation. This research has lead me to think that I will most likely pursue an MPH sometime after I graduate, whether it is right after I graduate or if it’s after I work in the field for a few years."

What is the most important thing you’ve learned at LMU?

"The most important thing that I’ve learned at LMU is how I can integrate my studies with social justice and advocacy."

Any advice for future researchers?

"I suggest that any students considering research keep an open mind and embrace the research project... Talk to some professors and find what really interests you."
I cannot stress enough the importance of taking the time to find a fitting career trajectory, whether that be through the pursuit of internship, service, and/or paid work opportunities during one’s undergraduate career and/or through post-grad service or short-term employment opportunities. I will also say that taking the year “off” after graduating from LMU allowed me not only to fully immerse in and enjoy my senior year rather than stress over law school and graduate school applications, but it also provided me the opportunity to explore a career that I thought I had wanted (but really didn’t). During the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, I was able to figure out my likes and dislikes in real-world settings and with a clearer mind. It was an incredible privilege and I highly recommend that people who are on the fence of knowing what they want consider a year of service or some other work experience that will allow for some serious reevaluation of one’s interests and goals after graduation. 

What advice can you give to students who are beginning the career building process?

I majored in Psychology and Sociology. Drs. Muraco, Limoncelli, and Fingerhut were particularly influential in challenging me to think critically, voice my opinions about various social justice issues, and pursue my personal interests. I also learned from professors outside the two departments. From Dr. Rothschild, I learned about a range of controversial issues, as well as promising restorative justice approaches. I learned about service from Tom King (TK) and on De Colores service trips with Patrick Furlong.

What were some defining post-graduation moments for you?

It’s hard to discuss post-graduation times without a mention of the Center for Service in Action’s integral role during my senior year at LMU. I had always been drawn to policy-relevant research projects and work environments, but by senior year I had not yet decided whether I wanted to pursue graduate school or law school. With TK’s help, I looked for and found a post-graduate service opportunity that would allow me to continue criminal justice. I was accepted into the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as the 2015-2016 Intake Assistant for the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program, a Mobile, AL nonprofit organization that provides free legal representation to low-income clients for civil matters.

What drew you to your current role at LMU?

At LMU, I am able to teach, mentor, and collaborate with students, and to collaborate with interdisciplinary scholars and staff members who I’ve grown even closer to since graduating. I was incredibly grateful to be offered the opportunity to teach Sociology of Law this semester. I have always been excited about the prospect of working at LMU because of its commitment to critically analyzing important social problems.

In Fall 2021, Dr. Vaughn will start her new job as an Assistant Professor at Spring Hill College, a Jesuit college in Mobile, Alabama.
JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING ALL SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS WHO PRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM!
The Sociology Society is a student group composed of sociology majors and minors that sponsors 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 students to hear from a panel of recent sociology alumni about their job experiences after graduation!

If you would like more information about the Sociology Society and its events, please contact:

Dr. Anna Muraco, Department Chair
amuraco@lmu.edu
University Hall Suite 4323

The Sociological Eye is the annual journal of academic work published by LMU undergraduates.

Any paper or research is eligible for consideration, as long as the subject matter is sociological in nature.

Please keep an eye out for the soon-to-be released 2021 edition of the Eye, edited by sociology majors Miles Breen ('24) and Shulin Madrid ('23).

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Many thanks to our Sociology Senior Administrative Coordinator, Robin Thimbriel who has left LMU for a new job! We’re happy for you, but you will be missed!!

https://www.facebook.com/lmusociologysociety/
https://www.instagram.com/lmusociologysociety/
https://www.instagram.com/lmu.sociology/

Join Us!
White Christian nationalism and the next wave of political violence

The Hill recently published a co-authored opinion piece by Dr. Sager! We encourage you to give the op-ed a read, as it addresses our nation's current political climate: Dr. Sager’s piece is titled, “White Christian Nationalism and the Next Wave of Political Violence,” and promotes conversation about Trumpism, along with the relationship between white Christianity and the federal government: “This merging of racial and religious interests created political alliances that were more than just a marriage of convenience: white entitlement and grievance, packaged with a moral veneer of racialized religious belief, used the language of spiritual warfare to justify the pursuit of political power by any means” (Sager & Loskota, 2021). The op-ed further discusses the events that took place at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 along with the election results. This read is well worth your time.
Dr. Ravaris Moore is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. Professor Moore earned his B.A. at Morehouse College with a double major in Mathematics and Economics. He completed M.A. degrees in Sociology and Economics, and a Ph.D. in Sociology all at UCLA. Professor Moore is a quantitative sociologist with training in the fields of Social Stratification and Social Demography. His work employs quantitative methods with large-scale microdata to explore questions of inequality at the intersection of race and ethnicity, education, and health. Like his research, Dr. Moore’s teaching focuses primarily on quantitative material. Thus far, Dr. Moore has taught Demography and Population, and Quantitative Research Methods. He looks forward to developing an upper division course in Social Stratification in the future.

After almost three years at LMU, Dr. Moore has found that interactions with student and colleagues are one of the most rewarding aspects of his position. He has grown substantially as a teacher-scholar with the mentorship of Dr. Stephanie Limoncelli, and support from department chairs Dr. Anna Muraco and Dr. Rebecca Sager.

Dr. Moore enjoys working with students, and has had the pleasure of working with several outstanding LMU sociology majors. He mentored Gianna Mack through the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) as she advance on-going research. He has also published with students Nina Mirzai and Nakia King.

His present research studies a range of topics including the effects of gun-violence exposure, the aftermath of officer involved shootings, and work directed towards understanding how the timing of parental incarceration effects children.

What's Dr. Moore up to?

Dr. Moore was recently awarded a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton University. Dr. Moore is presently on-leave from LMU taking advantage of this fellowship opportunity.
The unexpected alliance forged after the Rodney King verdict

The Washington Post recently published an op-ed by Dr. Nadia Kim! We encourage you to give it a read, and find out more about the history behind the movement: Dr. Kim's piece is titled, “The unexpected alliance forged after the Rodney King verdict,” and highlights the history between the Black-Korean alliance seen in the modern social justice movement. This piece is vital to understanding the current relations between this new demographic: “Both sides first “met” in the 1940s on the Korean Peninsula under the fraught circumstances of U.S. imperialism. In 1945 the United States was eager to capitalize on its World War II victory by sending its mostly White and Black troops to “rescue” Koreans from their former Japanese colonizers. As the United States used the peninsula’s southern region to meet both military and capitalist imperatives, Korean residents around the bases and Black American military personnel initially harbored mutual prejudices.” (Kim, 2021). The op-ed further discusses the events that have taken place over the years including the Rodney King riots that cemented Black-Korean solidarity. Read Dr. Kim’s op-ed today!
Luis Sánchez-López is a Zapotec (Benizaa) historian from Tlacolula de Matamoros, Oaxaca, Mexico, who has conducted research in various archives and special collections libraries in the U.S. and Mexico. He has been teaching in Sociology this year. He holds a B.A. in history from UCLA and an M.A. in Latin American history from UC San Diego. His dissertation traces the evolution of indigenous republicanism among the Zapotec Indians of Oaxaca from the mid-19th century to the Mexican Revolution of 1910. When Oaxaca’s state government granted municipalities the right to create their own municipal ordinances in 1857, Sánchez-López argues it paved the way for the development of a “customary law regime,” a form of governance that allowed statesmen to incorporate indigenous communities into the nation by recognizing their traditional forms of local rule. Despite this political incorporation, however, Sánchez-López notes state actors continued to view Indians as “uncivilized” and, therefore, unfit for citizenship.

What's Dr. Sanchez up to?

"My research interests include race, Indigeneity, settler colonialism, statecraft, customary law, autonomy, and social movements."

"I am currently working on a book manuscript, The Value of Native Bodies: Indigenous Autonomy and the Logic of Elimination in Mexico, that examines how statesmen in southern Mexico facilitated the transition from classic to settler colonialism in the nineteenth century by incorporating Indigenous customs into the republican legal code."
The Spanish-language news outlet La Opinion recently published an op-ed co-authored by Dr. Sylvia Zamora! We encourage you to give it a read to understand the powerful message that is reaching the eyes and ears of Latinos across L.A. and across the nation in the wake of George Floyd’s death: Dr. Zamora's piece is titled, "'Black Lives Matter' merece todo nuestro apoyo," or in English, "'Black Lives Matter' deserves all of our support." This op-ed seeks to educate about BLM and encourage the Latino community to support the movement: "En los últimos días, comunidades por todo el país han marchado en nombre de 'Black Lives Matter.' Entre ellos hay familias, organizaciones, y parroquias latinas uniéndose a la causa. Y en este tiempo tan inseguro es importante entender por qué las comunidades latinas e inmigrantes deberíamos de apoyar este movimiento" (Zamora et al., 2021). The op-ed highlights the importance of understanding who is marching and why. Read Dr. Zamora’s op-ed today!
PUBLICATIONS

Brand, Jennie E., Ravaris Moore, Xi Song, and Yu Xie. “Among Disadvantaged Children, Education is Largely Unaffected by Divorce.” Policy Brief, Center for Policy Research, University of California, Davis. Volume 8, Number 4, January 2020


DAUM MID CAREER AWARD

Dr. Stephanie Limoncelli received the 2020 Daum Mid-Career Faculty Research Award. This award is given to a tenured associate professor in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts who has exhibited a record of excellence in teaching and advising, scholarship and/or creative work, and service to the department, college, and university. This year marks 10 years that Prof. Limoncelli has been with the Sociology Department. She has served in a number of leadership roles, including serving on the department’s Curriculum and Assessment Committee, APRC and the UCCC Explorations Committee, BCLA Curriculum and Assessment Committee throughout 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE POSITION

In 2021, part-time faculty member, Andrea Plate, was elected Board Member of U.S. Vets, the largest non-profit for unhoused veterans in the United States.
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IN THE NEWS, MEDIA, & PUBLIC TALKS


Nadia Kim. 2021. The Unexpected Alliance Forged After the Rodney King Verdict: https://wapo.st/3tEe04e


Stephanie A. Limoncelli. 2020. The Role of Technology in Human Trafficking and Anti-Trafficking. Webinar organized by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women.


Sylvia Zamora. La Opinion, June 5, 2020, "Black Lives Matter’ merece todo nuestro apoyo"


Sylvia Zamora. Media Appearance, Univision News, June 6, 2020 Interviewed for news segment on Latino support for Black Lives Matter

SPRING 2021
Conference Presentations


Mathew Fox, **Ravaris Moore**, & Xi Song. “Entwined Embedded Events: The Effect of Parental Incarceration Timing on Children's Academic Achievement”

- American Sociological Association Annual Meetings 2020
- Population Association of America Annual Meetings 2021

**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


**Min Yoo** (2021) How Definitions and the Student Body Composition Shape Asian American Students' Perception of Sense of Belonging at a Diverse University.

**Sylvia Zamora** (2021) Discussant - Durable Ethnicity: Mexican Americans and the Ethnic Core, by Christina Sue and Edward Telles, Pacific Sociological Association


**Faculty Promotions**

**DR. SAGER.**
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR!

**DR. NATE SESSOMS.**
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER!

**HONORS & AWARDS**

**Ravaris Moore** received a Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Princeton University, a program aimed at enhancing diversity in the professoriate. “The Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellows Program is meant to encourage early-career scholars to pursue a career in academia by supporting their postdoctoral work here,” said Sanjeev Kulkarni, dean of the faculty.

**Rebecca Sager** was awarded the 2019 RGK-ARNOVA Presidential Award. Her research group’s submitted proposal was titled “The Contexts and Beliefs of Bureaucrats: Regulation of Local Church-State Relationships in a New Era”. The award is a prize to a member of ARNOVA to support basic research and theory building in the field of philanthropic, nonprofit and voluntary action studies.

**Rachel Washburn** was awarded a BCLA Summer Research and Writing Grant for 2021.

**Sylvia Zamora** has received the 2020 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship). This is a six-month award for spring 2021, and selection is very competitive: Only 30 Fellowships are awarded each year. **Sylvia Zamora** also was awarded a BCLA Summer Research and Writing Grant for 2020.