

IN SOLIDARITY

Department of Sociology

Spring 2021

Hello Sociologists,

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our Spring 2021 department newsletter. We are always looking for new ways to reconnect and share with Loyola alumni and current department members. If you have any new news, old news, or just any news that you'd like to share, please send it to us. Please also feel free to share any pictures you have with us—we would love to “see” as well as “hear” from you.

As you will see in this newsletter our department is thriving and great things are afoot. Discover what our students and faculty have been up to this academic year. Check out news of recent awards and accomplishments.

In addition to receiving your news items, we look forward to hearing comments about the newsletter or your suggestions for features and articles you might like to see. In the meantime, here's to another great semester at Loyola and in the Department of Sociology.

Department of Sociology—Loyola University Chicago

<http://www.luc.edu/sociology/>

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Message from the Chair, Dr. Rhys Williams



As I write this the last week of March, we have passed the one year mark of our university's – and society's – extraordinary adjustment to the new coronavirus and covid-19 disease. On March 13 of last year all on-site classes were canceled and we transi-

tioned to a totally on-line university. Remarkably, we pretty much did it. Within about a week to 10 days, the faculty, staff, and students of LUC totally switched formats for teaching and learning, doing crash courses on designing and implementing on-line education. We had our annual honors ceremony via zoom, we had commencement via zoom. It wasn't perfect, and we all would have preferred it otherwise, but we pulled it off.

Our Fall semester of this academic year was also almost completely on-line. This Spring semester there have been a handful of on-campus classes, with smaller enrollment caps, distancing and cleaning practices, and the like. Once again, it has been no one's favorite mode of teaching and learning, but some mid-semester student evaluations found that students do think they are learning and are still working hard for their education. However, as I write this, we are busily planning for next academic year to be mostly on-campus. With increasing vaccine rates, if we can continue to control new infections, next academic year may well be 'normal' again. There are some worrying signs, but we remain hopeful at this point.

Just because we are all on-line doesn't mean life hasn't been busy. In particular, the department is working to hire new assistant professors to replace the senior faculty who retired last year with LUC's 'buy-out' (you may recall that the department had three faculty retire, and another colleague took another job). Thus, we will have new faces joining the department in the fall. One of the positions for which we are hiring will be a joint appointment with the program in Women's Studies and Gender Studies (WSGS) and the other in Medical Sociology.

Those faculty searches are on-going.

Another new faculty member who will join the department in the fall is Fr. Patrick (Paddy) Gilger, S.J. He is just finishing his PhD in Sociology at the New School for Social Research in New York City. He specializes in the sociology of religion and sociological theory, and his dissertation research is on communalist religious groups and how they form communities of faith. You will read more about him in the Fall newsletter, but we are excited to know he will be here.

I want to also call attention to the fact that Stephanie DeCaluwe, who has been the department's Administrative Assistant for a number of years took a new position at LUC at the School of Environmental Sustainability. Many of you probably know Stephanie and know that she was extremely good at her job, especially solving problems and helping people accomplish their goals. And through it all she was unfailingly cheerful. We will miss her and are now searching for her successor.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find information on the activities and achievements of our faculty, of our graduate students, and of our undergraduate majors. Even with everything else going on, folks were publishing books and articles, making presentations at conferences, and winning awards. There is some updated information about many of our alumni. We are delighted to share all this information.

So, welcome to the Sociology Department newsletter for another semester. We hope to keep you connected to people you know, introduce you to some that you don't, and give you yet more evidence that our department is a lively, collegial, and energetic place to be. Do stay in touch, we love hearing from folks both far and near.



Faculty *Kudos and Announcements*

Dr. Judson Everitt and former Loyola Sociology PhD student Chris Duncan presented their co-authored paper entitled "Negotiated Orders and the Micro-Foundations of Institutionalization in Principals' Management of Teacher Evaluations" at the virtual Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in March.

Dr. Judson Everitt joined as co-author with Jeanne H. Ballantine and Jenny Stuber on the 9th edition of the book entitled *The Sociology of Education: A Systematic Analysis* (Routledge). This new edition will be in print in July 2021.

Dr. Judson Everitt is serving as Vice President for the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction this year, as well as the program chair for this year's virtual annual meeting in August. The meeting's theme is "Socialization and Inequalities across the Life Course: New Directions for Interactionist Scholarship." The meeting would have been in Chicago this summer if not for the pandemic.

Dr. Dana Garbarski published two studies in the book *Understanding Survey Methodology: Sociological Theory and Applications*. "The Measurement of Gender Expression and Sexual Attraction: Cognitive Interviews with Queer Women" was co-authored with graduate student Dana LaVergne. "Correlates of Differences in Interactional Patterns among Black and White Respondents" was co-authored with collaborators from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Dana Garbarski became President of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research in November 2020.

Dr. Dana Garbarski presented research at the virtual annual conference for the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research entitled "Interviewers' Evaluations of Respondents and the Interview as Indicators of Data Quality."

Dr. Lauren Langman (emeritus), along with George Lundskow, organized three sessions for the virtual 2021 Midwest Sociological Society meeting, one titled, "The

Election 2020," a second one titled, "Conspiracies," and a third called "Post Trump/Trumpism." Dr. Langman delivered a paper in the last session, titled, "The Dialectic of Trumpism: From Sick Society to Great Refusals."

Dr. Kelly Moore published an article titled "Capitalisms, Generative Projects and the New STS (2020) in the journal *Science as Culture*."

Dr. Cristian Paredes published an article in *Humanity and Society* titled "Is Openness in Taste Directly Associated with Tolerance? Exploring a Relationship between Openness in Taste in Leisure Consumption and Attitudes toward Immigrants."

Dr. Peter Rosenblatt was awarded the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award by the Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing. Click [here](#) for a video of the acceptance ceremony (9:06).

Dr. Peter Rosenblatt co-produced a report predicting the impact of COVID-19 on evictions and unemployment. ["Eviction Filings, Unemployment, and the Impact of COVID-19"](#)

Dr. Elfriede Wedam and graduate student Ryan Wong published a chapter in *The Routledge Handbook on Religion in Cities*, edited by Katie Day and Elise M. Edwards, titled "Religion and Violence in the Urban Context."

Dr. Elfriede Wedam gave a presentation titled "Religion and Violence in American Urban Context" at ISA IV Forum of Sociology, Feb. 23-28, 2021.

Dr. Matthew Williams wrote an entry on a recent journal article posted on the ASA's Work in Progress blog. ["Why Global Solidarity Is Important for Global Labor Strategy"](#)

Dr. Rhys Williams delivered a paper titled, "Two Tales of America: Narratives of Progress and Decline in the 2020 Election Cycle" in the "Election 2020" session of the Midwest Sociological Society meetings..

Dr. Elfriede Wedam—Guest Lecturer Michael P. McGillicuddy

A guest speaker in Dr. Wedam's Sociology 101 classes in March was Michael P. McGillicuddy, LCSW, whose lecture was titled "If We're Better Together, Why Are We So Far Apart?" The topic was how to overcome polarization in the current political and cultural climate. Michael P. McGillicuddy is a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corp and a retired psychiatric social worker. He is a former DeLaSalle Christian Brother whose career path also included teaching, government service, and financial planning. As a college student in Memphis, he marched with Martin Luther King Jr. Through IVC, he currently serves at Kolbe House Jail Ministry and facilitates groups for Cook County Jail detainees. Mike started Untying Knots, a program for speaking about how polarization of all types of viewpoints tear our families and communities apart and how to overcome this. He and his wife, Mary are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Riverside, Illinois.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

From Dr. Judson Everitt, Undergraduate Program Director



Greetings to all in a semester when hope springs. Vaccinations are rolling out, plans for a return to campus are in the works for fall, and the Loyola Men's Basketball team made a run to the Sweet 16 after being crowned Missouri Valley Conference champions.

Registration for fall courses will begin on Apr 19th. I will be hosting a Zoom Advising Open House the week prior to registration week (Thu, Apr 15th 12:30-2pm Central, Zoom link posted on the Majors Sakai site). Students

can "stop by" virtually at any point to ask questions, get permissions for SOCL 365, and discuss career options. Please mark your calendars and make a point to drop by during our Advising Open House.

I would also like to advise those of you early in the process of fulfilling your sociology major requirements to take a close look at our other 100-level courses, our Tier II core courses. These courses count towards the major, are usually smaller in size than 101 sections, go more in-depth on particular substantive topics in sociology, and offer opportunities for closer faculty interaction in the context of a class. These classes cover topics of

broad interest including: race and ethnicity (SOCL 122), mass media (SOCL 123), urban sociology (SOCL 125), religion (SOCL 145), sex and gender (SOCL 171). Moreover, each of these classes equip students with a broad basis on substantive topics you are likely to engage in subsequent elective courses.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the undergraduate program in sociology, and best wishes for rounding out a productive spring semester!

Judson Everitt
Undergraduate Program Director

Undergraduate *Kudos and Announcements*



Taylor Thomas was nominated for an Undergraduate Women's Leadership Award from the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership.

Taylor also serves as the Chief Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Officer in Loyola's Student Government.



Elaina Richards serves as the Academic Affairs Officer in Loyola's Student Government

Destiny Jacque was part of the Front Desk Office Assistants in Residence Life team that received the Ignatian Spirit Outstanding Team Award.



Camille Jackson received the Presidents Medallion in recognition of outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service. She plans to graduate in May 2021 with a B.A. in Film and Digital Media and a B.A. in Sociology.



Bre Hampton-Bey, a member of Loyola's Women's Basketball team, was selected to the MVC All-Newcomer Team. Bre has added 8.3 ppg and 4.1 rpg in her first year with the Ramblers, starting in eight of her 16 appearances.

Chelsea Tirado—Evaluation Course

I am currently taking a semester long course on evaluation, which is actually being counted as "SOCL 397- Independent Study Project." Every week, well-known Chicago evaluators teach our classes; on occasion, we have "organizational visits" where evaluation directors from social service agencies in Chicago (such as Heartland Alliance) discuss their work and hold "panels" where we are directly able to ask them questions. It has been a wonderful experience so far! The materials of the course have really emphasized the importance of employing an equitable based approach, and there has been a lot of discourse on things like power dynamics when working with marginalized communities. The cohort/class is small (8 students of color), but the size has really allowed us to foster a sense of community with one another. Following this semester, we will have a paid summer internship that we will be matched with based on survey responses. There are lots of skills from previous sociology classes that I think will be very fruitful for the internship (like survey design, interviewing, data collection etc.), and just the program itself. After graduating, we will all be participating in a 6-month paid fellowship in evaluation as well.

Student and Faculty Collaboration

Will there be a tsunami of evictions after COVID-19?

As COVID-19 spread across summer and fall of 2020, Illinois' Governor J.B. Pritzker, and later the CDC, issued moratoriums preventing the eviction of renters for unpaid rent- these moratoriums are still in effect. While this moratorium stopped households from being formally evicted during the pandemic, it left tenants responsible for the rent they owed. This means that whenever the moratorium ends, tenants may find themselves owing a significant amount of back rent. At this point, landlords may well file an eviction.

But how many tenants will be in this position? This issue has a lot of people worried, not just in Chicago but across the country. The situation is compounded by the huge increase in unemployment that followed the COVID-19 related shutdown in the spring. With tens of thousands of Chicagoans losing their jobs, will there be a "tsunami" of evictions once the moratorium lifts?

This was the question that Sociology Department professor **Peter Rosenblatt** saw an opportunity to answer. Drawing on an existing partnership with the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH), a non-profit legal aid and advocacy organization, and working with Loyola's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) and a group of students, Dr. Rosenblatt used a unique dataset of Cook County eviction filings to explore the relationship between evictions and unemployment. The research team, which included sociology graduate student **Travis Moody**, undergraduate sociology major **Emily Drane**, and recent sociology alum **Grace Rock**, used these data to develop a statistical model that they used to predict the number of eviction filings there might have been in Chicago in 2020 if not for the moratorium. The project showcased the continued impact of sociology outside of Loyola. Current students Moody and Drane took an active role in the analysis, while alum Rock, at the time an Americorps VISTA member serving with LCBH, provided deep knowledge of the data and housing policy. The report, which showed 21,000 evictions from 2020 that could potentially still be filed when the moratorium ends, can be found [here](#). An updated discussion of COVID-19 and evictions featuring Dr. Rosenblatt can be found [on Loyola's YouTube channel](#) and a longer presentation by the group at a CURL Friday Morning seminar can be found [here](#).

Rosenblatt, Moody, and Drane, along with CURL research professor **Dr. Gina Spitz**, are continuing their work with LCBH on different aspects of eviction in Chicago.



Emily Drane



Grace Rock



Travis Moody



Dr. Gina Spitz



Dr. Peter Rosenblatt

Graduate Report

From Dr. Marilyn Krogh, Graduate Program Director



Let's start with some good news! Congratulations to **Vanessa Rangel, Keyla Navarrete, and Moriah Johnson**, who completed master's degrees in the fall semester, and will be receiving their degrees in the May commencement ceremony. And double congratulations to **Soulit Chacko**, who completed her dissertation in the fall, and will be the

featured student speaker in the May commencement ceremony! Other students are nearing the completion of their master's degree this spring, and we wish them well as they cross the finish line.

Melissa Kinsella has received the Teaching Scholar award from The Graduate School for the coming academic year, 2021—2022. She will help lead the Teaching Effectiveness Seminar for beginning graduate instructors.

Keyla Navarrete and **Juanita Vivas Bastidas** presented at Loyola's recent Graduate Research Symposium, Keyla about her M.A. research, "Educational Debt: Educational Loans and the Family," and both of them about the ongoing Cook County Community Survey.

Alumnus **Reuben Miller**, now on the faculty at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, recently published "*Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the After-life of Mass Incarceration*," which has received national attention, including a review in the New York Times, a story by National Public Radio, and an interview on the radio program, Fresh Air, recently broadcast on WBEZ, 91.5 FM. Congratulations, Reuben!

The semester is coming to a close with many events and opportunities. The Graduate Student Association is sponsoring a new online group study/writing session on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 P.M. using the Pomodoro method. The last two departmental Professional Development Workshops are scheduled for April, and the Friday Morning Seminars at the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) are continuing. We are especially pleased to welcome **Dr. Maura Toro-Morn** as the featured Loyola alumna for the Fails Lecture. Opportunities for a "meet and greet" with her will be announced soon.

Registration for the fall semester opens on April 15. Be sure to meet with your faculty advisor before registration opens to review your plans for the next semester and then contact me; once I approve your plans Alex will register you in LOCUS. New students should confer with me until they identify another faculty member that they would like as their advisor. Be sure to consider the possibility of an internship for one of your courses during your time at Loyola—they can open up new options for you, intellectually and professionally.

Please note that many relevant announcements are communicated only through the weekly email from the department and the weekly email from the Graduate School. As we think about the end of the school year, and what's coming next, please remember that the Fellowship Office and Career Development Center do have resources for graduate students and alumni. Alumni, we're so glad that you keep in contact with us. Please do continue to send us your news, visit us on campus, and send prospective students our way. If you're interested in joining our BA/MA, MA or PhD programs, contact me at mkrogh@luc.edu

Graduate Student

PUBLICATIONS ♦ AWARDS ♦ FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS ♦ PRESENTATIONS

Ashley Baber is presenting their paper titled "Labor market engineers: Redefining labor market intermediaries with the rise of the gig economy" at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting in April.

Soulit Chacko will be the graduation speaker for Loyola's graduate school commencement.

Christopher Hansen is co-author of the journal article "Social Media Recruitment for a Web Survey of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth: An Evaluation of Methods Used and Resulting Sample Diversity" published in the December edition of *LGBT Health*.

Christopher was promoted to the position of Research Methodologist in NORC's Methodology and Quantitative Social Sciences Department in December.

Melissa Kinsella presented at two sessions during the Midwest Sociological Society's (MSS) Annual Meeting. The first presentation was in a teaching technique session and titled "Fostering Synchronous Class Discussion During Uncertainty." The second presentation was in a paper session and titled "'Be Smart:' Affirmative Sexual Consent Policy as Gendered Legal Protection."

Dana La Vergne presented a talk entitled "The Measurement of Sexual Identity: Cognitive Interviews with Queer Women" for Loyola Sociology's March Professional Development Workshop. The project was co-authored by Professor Dana Garbarski.

Dana co-authored a chapter in the 4th addition of the book "Frontiers in Sociology and Social Research," titled "The Measurement of Sexual Attraction and Gender Expression: Cognitive Interviews with Queer Women," with Professor Dana Garbarski.

Graduate Student

PUBLICATIONS ♦ INTERNSHIPS ♦ FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS ♦ PRESENTATIONS

Travis Moody contributed to the report co-produced by Dr. Peter Rosenblatt predicting the impact of COVID-19 on evictions and unemployment. [“Eviction Filings, Unemployment, and the Impact of COVID-19”](#)

Keyla Navarrete presented at Loyola’s recent Graduate Research Symposium, about her M.A. research, “Educational Debt: Educational Loans and the Family,” and about the ongoing Cook County Community Survey.

Juanita Vivas Bastidas presented at Loyola’s recent Graduate Research Symposium about the ongoing Cook County Community Survey.

Quintin Williams moderated an event hosted by the Joyce Foundation, Illinois Justice Project, and BPI. The event was about the comprehensive criminal justice reform legislation recently passed by the Illinois General Assembly.

Quintin was invited to join the City of Chicago’s new Working Group on Returning Residents by our Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

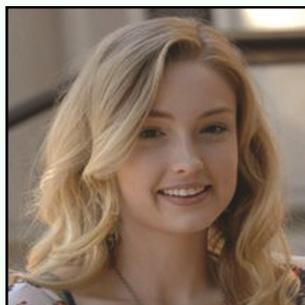
Quintin was a discussant at the “Advancing Smart Decarceration Through Research” event hosted by the University of Chicago as part of its Smart Decarceration Project.

Ryan Wong presented his paper “The Broken Matrimony Between National and Religious Identity: Christian Nationalism Among American Youth,” currently under review at The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society, at the annual MSS conference.

Ryan is working as the editorial assistant for the Contemporary Justice Review: Issues in Criminal, Social, and Restorative Justice. Their aims and scope can be found [here](#). Ryan encourages students to submit suitable papers to this journal.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The following graduate students have been awarded these fellowships from The Graduate School:



Teaching Scholars Fellowship:
Melissa Kinsella

Melissa has taught SOCL 255: *Deviance and Social Control*, SOCL 101: *Society in a Global Age*, and SOCL 210: *Gender and Work*. She is currently teaching SOCL 171: *Sociology of Sex and Gender*. Melissa is a reflective, structured, and enthusiastic instructor. Her course design, course assignments, and student feedback center on reflective (inter)action-oriented learning that develops students critical thinking skills. In addition to teaching, Melissa develops, publishes, and presents lesson plans and best practices for teaching within sociology. The Teaching Scholars Program will allow Melissa to focus on her dissertation research regarding masculinity practices within higher education.

The Teaching Scholars program assists advanced graduate students in their preparation as scholar-teachers by providing a series of experiences, activities, and responsibilities appropriate to the scholar-teacher.

SOCIOLOGISTS OF RELIGION (SRL)



“*Sociologists of Religion at Loyola (SRL)* is a student-led group, co-organized by graduate students Fatema Zohara and Ryan SC Wong. In this group, students present and discuss the various topics of Sociology of Religion.

This spring, Michelle Dodson gave a presentation titled “Bucking the Trend: An Exploration of Preliminary Findings.” For more information about this group or to present a paper for peer feedback, please contact Fatema at fzohara@luc.edu or Ryan

at rwong1@luc.edu. “

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)

2020-21 GSA Officers:

[Dana La Vergne](#)

[Keyla Navarrete](#)

[Julie Szamocki](#)

Graduate Student

STUDENT RESEARCH CORNER

Ryan Wong—The Broken Matrimony Between National and Religious Identity



Studies of American youth and religion often examine the changes in their religious expression, faith, opinions of institutions, and liberal views. Less attention is given to youth's understanding of, and connection between, their national and religious identities. Meanwhile, studies of religion and national identity have focused little attention specifically on young adults. In this study, I explore the nature and role of Christianity in how American college students understand their national identity, by analyzing their responses to Christian nationalism. Using semi-structured interviews with 13 Christian American college students who were enrolled in universities in Chicago, I illuminate how they separate their religious identity from their national identity. My respondents rejected the fundamental principle of Christian nationalism and argued for a complete separation of church and state, putting religious practice and identity in their private sphere. As my respondents articulated how and why they separate their religious and national identities, I made two interesting observations. Similar to Christian nationalists, they often used a 'founding' argument regarding the US Constitution to justify their beliefs. Furthermore, when asked about religion and politics, they exhibited a neo-liberal view of government's role. Thus, they were unable to imagine a present, supportive, and active role that the government can play to better support religious diversity and contest the Christian-dominant political climate.

Faculty Project with Student Collaboration

Dr. Dana Garbarski—Cook County Community Survey

In 2020, my colleague David Doherty (Political Science) and I noticed a lack of consistent survey data about the issues affecting Cook County. We applied for and received an internal grant from the Office of Research Services to pilot the Cook County Community Survey, an annual online survey of a descriptively representative sample of adults in Cook County.



The first wave of the survey was fielded in February and March 2021, and included questions about environmental issues, patterns related to gentrification, political participation, policing, and COVID-19. Although one-off surveys within parts of the Cook County community are occasionally fielded in reaction to fleeting, "flashpoint" events, this project will provide an opportunity for researchers to shed light on enduring and emerging urban issues and how policy makers and the public might work together to address them.

Importantly, we did not develop this survey alone. Engaging students with the process of executing original research is a key purpose of this survey. During the 2020-2021 academic year, 5 undergraduate sociology and political science students and two sociology graduate students gained hands-on research experience, working with us to develop, field, and analyze the survey. Students will also have the opportunity to present findings in scholarly venues and to community partners.

We have already recruited several students to work with us in 2021-2022 in a year-long research process. This experience will include: continued analysis of the data from the wave 1, interviewing community stakeholders and organizations to collaborate on gathering data that will be useful for them, writing and revising survey questions for wave 2, analyzing the data from wave 2, and writing up and presenting the results in various academic and community outlets. We have some funding for wave 2, which will support administering the survey to respondents in Cook County. Future funding will be critical to sustain the project.

We look forward to continuing to engage students in this research experience and providing a lens on attitudes about pressing issues in Cook County!

Stephanie Decaluwe

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK! WE WILL MISS YOU!

Stephanie Decaluwe—Moving to the School of Environmental Sustainability



Stephanie Decaluwe has been the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Sociology since 2013 and has recently taken a new position within the university as the Administrative Operations Manager in the new School of Environmental Sustainability. As current and former Chairs of the department, we both worked closely with Stephanie and know how valuable she was to the department and to keeping the operation going day in and day out. In terms of the big things, her ability to keep us organized was essential. She has all the personal characteristics and skills of a great project manager and sometimes we were a "project." She was essential in organizing all of the departmental events, and managed our budgets and day-to-day operations smoothly. She was expert at giving us, as Chairs, reminders of impending deadlines without seeming pushy or impatient. For many of the newer faculty, Stephanie was the initial face of the department as they went through the hiring process. Every year, Stephanie organized and spearheaded the department's Loyola Gives effort and went the extra mile in buying, wrapping, and delivering holiday gifts to families in need. In 2017, Stephanie was honored as a finalist for Staff Member of the Year. She has traveled with us as we were hired, retired, had babies and experienced losses. We will miss her in the department but luckily for all of us, she will still be at Loyola. We wish her all the best in her new position!

Anne Figert & Rhys Williams

A. Figert
Rhys



Kind Words From Dr. Elfriede Wedam

Dear Stephanie,

How can I thank you for so many years in the Sociology Department? Let me count the ways.

Fixing my Word documents when I could not make sense of the formatting rules.

Posting notes on my door alerting students that I will be late for office hour appointments.

Unlocking my office door when I locked my keys inside.

Creating flyers in .pub for my service work activities and then converting everything to formats my network

was likely to use.

Sharing excitement of the wins of Loyola's men's basketball games and disappointments when they lost. (Go Ramblers!)

Looking up countless bits of information when I was rushing around trying to meet deadlines. And even when I wasn't.

Reminding me of anything I forgot.

I can never thank you enough for your helpfulness, good cheer, and attention to every detail.

Elfriede

Alumni News



Meghan Burke is leaving higher ed, and has recently started a position as DEI Advisor for WarnerMedia. They will be Professor Emerita at Illinois Wesleyan

University.



Jennifer Cossyleon gave a CURL seminar presentation titled

“The New Deal for Housing: Centering Racial Equity in Federal Housing.”

Leah Durst-Lee, graduating with a Sociology and Anthropology BA from

Loyola in 2014, will complete an MA in Advanced Migration Studies at the University of Copenhagen this spring and begin an MA in International Law and Human Rights at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica in the fall.

Rajelin Escondo, after graduating from UCLA with a Masters, worked at UC Berkeley for 6 years with students of color and leadership development. Before getting burnt out, they left Cal and now work at a nonprofit called Rockwood Leadership Institute where they run issues-based leadership development fellowships as a Program Manager. With their extra time they teach yoga and are starting their own wellness consulting business to support the longevity of people in movement spaces.



Yasmeen Khayr gave a CURL seminar presentation titled “Gender and Sexuality Beliefs Among Muslim Men on College

Campuses”

Lawrence Francis Loughlin graduated in 1961 from Lewis Towers. He is now age 85 and retired from the military, law enforcement, and as a social worker. He worked for 5 years as a Children's Social Worker with Los Angeles County. He is from the South side of Chicago and now resides in Culver City with his wife. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. His wife, Mirna Aida (Nee) Morales, is *continued on next page* from El



Molly Skjerven—UIC John Marshall Law School

Since graduating from Loyola in May 2019 with a BS in Criminal Justices & Criminology and a minor in Sociology, law school has been keeping me very busy. My first year at UIC John Marshall Law school I took the required 1L curriculum as well as a legal writing seminar focused on human rights. In that class, I got to learn the basics of legal research and apply my new writing skills to a case that was on the US Supreme Court Docket, *Hernandez v Mesa*.

I spent my summer working from home for the UIC John Marshall Fair Housing Clinic. I was assigned several client intake interviews and drafted arguments for clients who were bringing claims to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for violations of local and federal fair housing laws. As part of the seminar component of my clinic work I got to meet Dr. Kurwa at UIC, who was studying how Section 8 Housing Voucher terminations are a means of perpetuating racial segregation.

Under his guidance this past semester, I took on an independent study research project and wrote a paper examining the impact of racial stigma on housing voucher terminations in Chicago. Using research skills I had learned and developed in my sociology classes at Loyola I was able to analyze data that I had collected from the Chicago Housing Authority and explore how race impacted Housing Choice Voucher terminations. Since completing my paper, I have spent my holiday submitting it for publication and hope to continue finding ways to combine my background in Sociology with my legal education and practice.

continued on next page

Alumni News

Salvador and so their children are bilingual and bicultural. They say the Rosary every morning.



Todd Fuist has earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Zubia Merchant, a recent graduate from the Sociology BA program, will be attending Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine this fall.

Grace Rock contributed to the report co-produced by Dr. Peter Rosenblatt predicting the impact of COVID-19 on evictions and unemployment. [“Eviction Filings, Unemployment,](#)

[and the Impact of COVID-19”](#)

Gary L. Schlesinger, B.S 1967, was named an Illinois super lawyer for the 15th year. As of May 2021, he will have been an attorney for 50 years.

Maria von Stamwitz just started school at Virginia Tech for a master's of natural resources in global sustainability. They have a Master's of Education in counseling from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but discovered that was not the right field for them and so they went back to school!

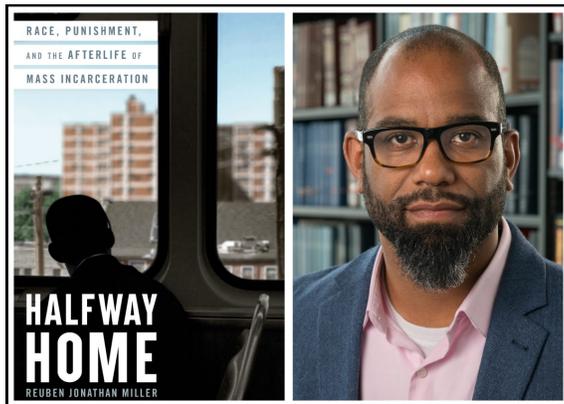
Kristin Stone, class of '86, earned their masters in accounting to implement financial systems and travel. They fondly remember Loyola and the sociology department.

Amma Taylor is now in their last year of medical school at Stritch and will be graduating in May. They are going into pediatrics and will start their residency in July of this year.



Jackie Zalewski contributed to revisions on a chapter "Work and the Economy" in *Investigating Social Problems*, which was published in

January 2021: "Work and the Economy," chapter 10 in *Investigating Social Problems* (3rd ed), A. Javier 2021.



Reuben Jonathan Miller—Halfway Home

Reuben Jonathan Miller, an alum of Loyola's Sociology PhD program, is a sociologist, criminologist and a social worker who teaches at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration where he studies and writes about race, democracy, and the social life of the city. He has been a member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton New Jersey, a fellow at the New America Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and a visiting scholar at the University of Texas at Austin and Dartmouth College. A native son of Chicago, he lives with his wife and children on the city's Southside. He recently published the book [Halfway Home](#). Check out these links for an [NPR](#) discussion and [New York Times](#) article about the book.

About the book: Each year, more than half a million Americans are released from prison and join a population of twenty million people who live with a felony record. Reuben Miller, a chaplain at the Cook County Jail in Chicago and is now a sociologist studying mass incarceration, spent years alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners, their friends, and their families to understand the life-long burden that even a single arrest can entail. What his work revealed is a simple, if overlooked truth: life after incarceration is its own form of prison. The idea that one can serve their debt and return to life as a full-fledge member of society is one of America's most nefarious myths. Recently released individuals are faced with jobs that are off-limits, apartments that cannot be occupied and votes that cannot be cast.

“As this beautifully written, stunning, and deeply painful reckoning with our nation's carceral system makes clear, we have not remotely yet grasped what drives it, nor how devastating is its reach. As Miller shows so powerfully, the damage done by this system has been so insidious, and so comprehensive, that certain Americans are always, in effect, doing time and, thus, to undo this crisis, and for most incarcerated Americans to truly ever be able to come “home,” will mean doing a whole lot more work than we have yet done.”—Heather Ann Thompson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy

ELEANOR FAILS LECTURE LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SPRING, 2021

DR. MAURA I. TORO-MORN

**PUERTO RICANS IN THE HEARTLAND: MIGRATIONS,
FAMILIES, AND TRANSNATIONAL BELONGING IN
CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

Maura I. Toro-Morn, is Professor in the Sociology and Anthropology Department, and in the Latin American and Latina/o Studies Program at Illinois State University. She earned her PhD in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago.



Until recently, Chicago was the second largest Puerto Rican community in the United States. At the same time, a number of Puerto Ricans have migrated from the city itself to the suburbs, as well as to communities in Central Illinois. Migration has not been easy for Puerto Ricans, in particular women, but once in the United States, women have played a major role in the development of their communities. This presentation is part of an on-going project that documents the experiences of Puerto Ricans in the Heartland. Interviews with Puerto Rican women and their families address broad questions of migration, belonging, feeling, and survival.

Wednesday, April 21
7:00 PM

[Register Here](#)

Department Photos

Anti-Racism Panel



Tamara Drew



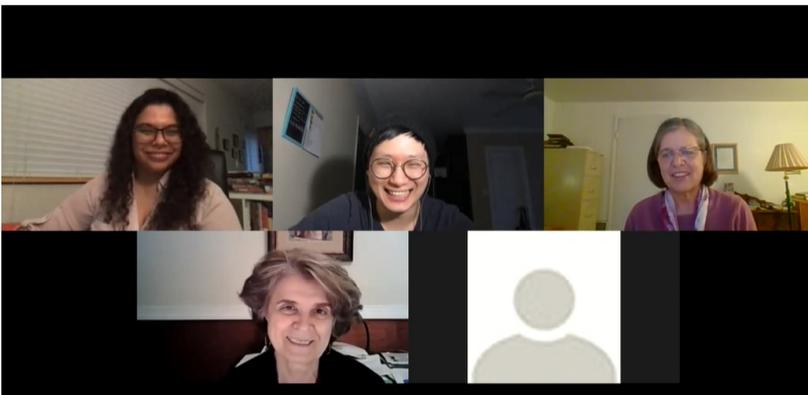
Dr. Elise Martel Cohen



Quintin Williams



Glenance Green



Sociologists of Religion at Loyola Event—Dr. Elfriede Wedam speaking on Urban Violence and Religion in Chicago

Professional Development Workshop—Dr. Kelly Moore speaking on “Scheduling Time to Write.”

