Dr. Reuben A. Buford May has been selected as one of the three finalists for Baylor University’s 2020 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching, the only national teaching award – with the single largest monetary reward of $250,000 – presented by a college or university to an individual for exceptional teaching. The winning professor will be announced by Baylor in spring 2020.

As a Cherry Award finalists, Dr. May will receive $15,000, as well as $10,000 for the department to foster the development of teaching skills. He will present a series of lectures at Baylor during fall 2019 and also a Cherry Award lecture at Texas A&M.

The Cherry Award program is designed to honor great teachers, stimulate discussion in the academy about the value of teaching and encourage departments and institutions to value their own great teachers. Individuals nominated for the award have proven records as extraordinary teachers with positive, inspiring and long-lasting effects on students, along with records of distinguished scholarship.

The first Robert Foster Cherry Award was made in 1991 and has since been awarded biennially.

Reuben A. Buford May was named Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence in 2017, considered the most prestigious faculty honor for teaching bestowed by TAMU. May is also the recipient of numerous university undergraduate teaching awards, including the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award in recognition for teaching excellence in Texas, Texas A&M’s Glasscock Professorship in Undergraduate Teaching Excellence (2015-2018) and the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in the area of Teaching (2013).

May’s primary research areas are race and ethnicity, urban sociology and the sociology of sport. He studies how institutions shape situational contexts and how individuals within those contexts negotiate, interpret and define race, class, culture and identity. He has published dozens of journal articles as well as three books – “Urban Nightlife” (2014), “Living Through the Hoop” (2008), and “Talking at Trena’s: Everyday Conversations at an African American Tavern” (2001).
Dr. Joe Feagin received the ASA award for Public Understanding of Sociology

This award honors ASA members who have brought sociological scholarship to the forefront, addressing a larger audience, and encouraging critical public engagement with sociology.

Feagin’s work (over 70 books and more than 200 articles) documents how racism functions in our society, creating theoretical paradigms to explain the complex processes that undergird racial disparities and exploring how to counter such racist ideology. His work is widely read and cited, and his theories have provided a framework for many sociological studies. Among Feagin’s many books are titles such as: Ghetto Revolts: The Politics of Violence in American Cities; Living With Racism: The Black Middle Class Experience; White Racism: The Basics; Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, and Future Reparations; Systemic Racism: A Theory of Oppression; The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism; and The White Racial Frame: Centuries of Racial Framing and Counterframing. Additionally, his bestselling textbook, Racial and Ethnic Relations, manages to distill an incredibly complicated subject matter in an accessible, engaging, and transformative textbook that has changed the way many young people think about race.

Indeed, Feagin has worked diligently to expand the reach of his ideas to a larger audience. He has given numerous public talks translating his work to non-academic venues. He cofounded racismreview.com, a website that promotes racial justice scholarship and activism.

Feagin’s scholarship, mentorship, and service has been recognized with numerous awards from ASA including the Oliver C. Cox Book Award, the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities’ Founder’s Award for Scholarship and Service, the Robert and Helen Lynd Award for Contribution to Community and Urban Sociology, the W.E.B Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, and the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award. Moreover, Feagin has received numerous awards from outside the academy, including the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights Outstanding Book Award and the Arthur Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Affirmative Action.

Nancy Plankey-Videla was named as a recipient of the College of Liberal Arts “Achievements in Climate and Inclusion (ACI) Award. The ACI award recognizes those faculty members who regularly engage in service activities designed to encourage and facilitate a more inclusive and welcoming climate for all.” This is the inaugural year of the program.

She also received, together with Dr. Maria Irene Moyna and Dr. Gabriela Zapata in Hispanic Studies the “Advancing Climate Together” (ACT) Grant for Inclusive Excellence for the project “Somos Tejas: Digital Stories for First-Generation Hispanic/Latinx Students.”
Dr. Chaitanya Lakkimsetti was selected as a member of the 2019 Class of Texas A&M University Arts & Humanities Fellows. Induction as an Arts & Humanities Fellow recognizes extraordinary scholarship and creativity and provides faculty a supportive environment through which to advance their scholarship and creative work, and reward scholarly and artistic merit in their chosen discipline.

Chaitanya Lakkimsetti’s work centers on gender, sexuality, law and citizenship. In her empirical and theoretical work, she employs transnational and intersectional approaches to study sexual and gender inequalities in a global context.

Lakkimsetti’s monograph, *Devotional Practices*, focuses on the intersections of religion, sexuality and gender in contemporary India. Concentrating on two temple practices in South India, the book will look at how male, female and transgender sexualities are co-constituted through devotional practice.

Existing scholarship in the field of sexuality/queer studies privileges liberal secular subject and has paid little attention to the intersections of religion and sexuality. Lakkimsetti will use her fellowship to undertake additional research to complete the monograph and produce a journal article. She will also organize a photo exhibition to highlight fascinating intersections between religion and sexuality in contemporary India.

**Grants**

Dr. Jamilia Blake (in Educational Psychology, PI), Dr. Pat Goldsmith and 10 other TAMU faculty members received a $1,400,000 TAMU X Grant for “Project X-CEL: Eliminating Bias in School Discipline.”

There are large racial and gender differences in school suspension rates that have the potential to severely derail student’s educational attainment. Research has attributed these racial differences to implicit racial and gender bias among school teachers. The X Grant will design an innovative interactive online mobile-centric teacher training program, pilot-test it with 6th-8th grade classroom teachers, evaluate its ability to mitigate teacher’s implicit bias, improve their classroom behavior management, and decrease Black and Hispanic students’ discipline referral and suspension rates. The final product for this project will be a fully developed interactive online and mobile-centric teacher professional development training that will reduce gendered racial bias in school discipline outcomes (e.g., office discipline referrals and school suspension).

Dr. Reuben May received the Louis Stokes STEM Pathways and Research Alliance (Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) $4,000,000 grant on which he serves as a Co-PI was funded by the National Science Foundation. Drs. Christine Stanley and Reuben will lead the research team gathering data on the experiences of program participants.
Dr. Patricia Thornton (together with Dr. Donald Lewis and Dr. Janet Parish from Mays Business School) received the $60,000 Global Engagement grant for Global Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Supporting the Global Engagement Plan, these grants encourage innovative multi-collegiate initiatives that incorporate significant international experiences for students that include a high-impact experiential or research activity. Award funding will be used over a three-year period.

The McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship’s Global Entrepreneurship Initiative (GEI) seeks to provide students with high impact entrepreneurial experiences in multiple locations, including programs in Belgium, Chile, and Cuba, and potentially expanding to Ireland, Eastern Europe, and Central America. The Initiative goes beyond traditional study abroad by simulating international business scenarios by teaching students using innovative results-oriented pedagogy developed by Texas A&M professors and staff that aims to transform students into global entrepreneurial thinkers. For student participants, the 1-year, 3-credit, faculty-led study abroad program consists of three phases that focus on providing a unique experience working with foreign entrepreneurs.

The first phase takes place at Texas A&M University and begins with research and goal-setting, including pre-departure meetings and courses with faculty covering topics including entrepreneurship, sociocultural factors within business, problem recognition, and personal reflection. During phase one, students will build relationships with pre-selected startups by contacting agents of the businesses and reading about their company. The second phase involves travel to the respective country for a cross-cultural immersion experience. Students connect with startups abroad with the goal to assess and advise these startups and businesses. Groups will critically evaluate these startups with instructor guidance and offer specific recommendations based on a set of problem statements. The third phase takes place at the end of the program, where students provide feedback to improve the program’s quality and help its perpetuation.

On completion of all three phases, interested students will apply for another year of the program to assist with recruiting new students and serve as mentors, leaders and teaching assistants. Students’ performance in the first year of the program and demonstrated leadership potential determines their selection for the second year of the program.

The program has 2 long-term plans: Working with foreign startups and businesses to import products for sale in a student-run retail lab on the Texas A&M campus and adding a language component with the College of Liberal Arts. Through the import process, students identify products that have market demand in the U.S., and then conduct a business deal with them by purchasing products to import to the United States for sale at a student retail lab. Currently no program at Texas A&M University allows students to have hands-on experience conducting international business and importing products for sale. The GEI aims to also work closely with the College of Liberal Arts to offer an additional learning experience for their language studies students to apply their studies to a real-world scenario.
Dr. Defne Oever

I am a political sociologist interested in the study of human rights, political institutions, and national, religious and ethnic identities. I earned my PhD in 2017 from the Department of Sociology of Cornell University, USA. Previously I was in Berlin, Germany for an MA in Social and Political Sciences at Humboldt University, and in Istanbul, Turkey for a BA in Sociology at Boğaziçi University. My current work centers on a set of important questions raised by the return of repressive regimes and mass mobilization in the 21st century: How do contemporary modes of state control take hold in social relations? How religious and ethnic identities mediate population response to such state control? How do these state-society interactions contest existing political, legal, and cultural institutions? I seek to respond to these questions through a historically and culturally informed analysis of the lived experiences of individuals. In my book project, tentatively titled “Stigma, Seizure, Trial: The New Media in Turkey” I address the contemporary transformation of the media in Turkey in the context of democratic decay. Besides my book, I currently work on two other projects: (1) comparative study of high courts’ freedom of expression decisions, (2) comparative study of populist success in and outside Europe. My previous work on social movements, national identity, and free speech has been published in Qualitative Sociology; Social Movements, Conflicts and Change; Authoritarianism and Resistance in Turkey; and Sage Research Methods Cases.

Dr. Emilce Santana joins the department as a visiting assistant professor/an Accountability, Climate, Equity, and Scholarship (ACES) Fellow. Her research interests include race/ethnicity, social stratification, and immigrant integration. She defended her dissertation “Can Love Conquer All?: Platonic and Romantic Relationships across Ethnoracial Lines in the U.S.” in July from Princeton University. In her dissertation, she explores patterns and determinants of intergroup relationships ranging from marriages to friendships. As a visiting assistant professor, she aims to continue in this vein of research.

Dr. Santana was raised in a working-class neighborhood in the South Bronx, NY by a single Afro-Dominican mother. Her move to A&M is her first time living outside of the Northeast. She’s very much looking forward to eating a lot of BBQ and many tacos.
Amber Blazek received a 2019 Texas A&M Energy Institute Graduate Fellowship ($5,000). This graduate fellowship recognizes outstanding energy research work performed by Ph.D. students under the supervision of Affiliated Faculty Members of the Texas A&M Energy Institute. Amber’s work is titled “The Effects of Organizational and Social Vulnerability Characteristics on Greenhouse Gas Emissions among Electric Power Plants in Houston, Texas.” Amber’s work will attempt to answer the following questions: (1) How do organizational characteristics affect pollution levels among electric power plants? (2) How do community-level social vulnerability characteristics affect pollution levels? (3) How does the interaction between organizational and social vulnerability characteristics affect pollution levels? Preliminary spatial analyses conducted using geographic information systems (GIS) technology reveal that 58% of plants, accounting for 45% of total GHG emissions, are located within one-mile of a low-income community; 69% of plants, accounting for 79% of total GHG emissions, are located within one-mile of a majority-minority race community; and 54% of plants, accounting for 45% of total GHG emissions, are located within one mile of a low-income, majority-minority race community.

Linzi Berkowitz received the 2019 Fasken Graduate Student Teaching Award. The award committee was particularly impressed with her “experience teaching upper level courses, her proficiency with writing intensive courses, and the student comments that demonstrated that she teaches difficult and challenging courses in a way that complex ideas are accessible and applicable to undergraduates.” The award comes with a certificate and an award of $300 in the form of a research bursary.

Stephanie M. Ortiz received the Diversity Matters Seed Grant from the Office for Diversity for her project “The Dimensions and Implications of Online Harassment.” This $5,500 grant is awarded to research designed to positively impact Texas A&M University’s goals of accountability, climate and equity.

Jeffrey Opaleyeye received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award in Spring 2019, awarded by the College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences at Texas Southern University.

Alumni Updates

Dr. Todd Couch (TAMU, 2014) started a new position at Francis Marion University. Dr. Couch did very well at Coker College previously, earning tenure at year 5. However, that position did not allow much time for research and gradually became almost exclusively online teaching. This new position provides dedicated research time and funds as well as a reduced course load. Dr. Couch is looking forward to getting back to research and publishing routine. He did manage to publish a piece titled “Good Guys with Guns?: A Qualitative Analysis of Racial Framing within Students for Concealed Carry” in Issues in Race and Society a year or so ago, but excessive teaching and service requirement often got in the way. Outside of academic life, Dr. Couch got married and had a son in the last year so life is good.
Ruth C. Schaffer Award

Three students were awarded the Ruth C. Schaffer Award for two articles this year.

Stephanie Ortiz received the award for her paper published in Sociological Perspectives titled “You Can Say I Got Desensitized to It: How Men of Color Cope with Everyday Racism in Online Gaming” (vol 62, issue 4, 2019). Hyunseok Wang and Tiffany Amorette Young received the award for their paper published in The Social Science Journal titled “How Does Community Philanthropy Function? Direct Effects of the Social Problem and the Moderating Role of Community Racial Diversity”.

The Ruth C. Schaffer Award, established in 2005, recognizes high achievement by a graduate or undergraduate student who has published a research paper in a peer-reviewed journal or written a research paper accepted for presentation on a regular or section session panel of the American Sociological Association meetings during the year in which the award is made.

The award is named in honor of Ruth C. Schaffer, who was hired by the University in 1971 and taught in our department from 1972 through 1991, when she retired and was appointed Professor Emerita. A student of Rupert B. Vance and Floyd Hunter, she conducted community research throughout her career. She carefully traced networks of power and showed how cliques used resources to gain their objectives, even when doing so sometimes violated ideals of equality and social justice. As a member of the University’s Minority Affairs Committee, she tirelessly urged the University to develop a more diverse faculty, staff and student body. Known for the long hours she spent with students, insistent that they learn to do good research and write well, she was much beloved by them. In 1982, she received the College-Level Teaching Award from the Former Students Association. Ruth Passed away in 2003, and her family established this award in her honor.

Howard B. Kaplan Assistantship

Congratulations to Kirstie Boyett for her award of the Howard Kaplan Assistantship for the 2019-2020 year.

Kirstie is working on a paper from the KLAMS data set to examine sexual violence as well as another paper on how policy wording aimed at reducing sexual violence may generate a “boomerang effect”, that is, resistance to anti-sexual assault policies activated by traditional gender beliefs.

Dr. Howard B Kaplan was a Regents Professor, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the Mary Thomas Marshall Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He was internationally known and regarded as an expert in the area of deviance, social psychology and especially medical sociology. His reputation is demonstrated by his award of the American Sociological Association's Leo G. Reeder Award for a career of distinguished contributions to medical sociology, the highest award that can be given in the area.

Dr. Kaplan joined the Texas A&M Sociology Department in 1988 and established The Laboratory for Studies of Social Deviance. In addition to directing a myriad of ongoing grants and associated studies, and mentoring graduate students, he regularly taught graduate seminars on social psychology and social deviance.

To honor his memory, his family and friends established the Howard B. Kaplan Memorial Assistantship.
Vanessa Gonlin is awarded $15,000 from the Reed Foundation (via the Ruth Landes Memorial Fund) to support her dissertation research. Vanessa worked on this grant proposal in the grant writing course taught by Dr. Dann Howard who, along with Vanessa’s advisor Dr. Mary Campbell, offered instructive feedback and guidance throughout this process. Vanessa’s dissertation project is titled: “Linking Biracial Identity: Discrimination, Linked Fate, and Spouse’s Race among Biracial Adults.”

Hyunseok Hwang received the 2018-2020 Mays Innovation Research Center grant from Mays Business School at Texas A&M University, a total of $10,000. Hyunseok is working on his social entrepreneurship project that examines what motivates social entrepreneurship and how the motivations of social entrepreneurs are different from traditional entrepreneurship motivations.

Stephanie M. Ortiz and Kelly McNamara were awarded a Dissertation Fellowship through the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies for the 2019-2020 year. Kelly’s dissertation project is titled "Labor & Birth Experiences: Why Hospitals and Organizational Characteristics Matter" and Stephanie’s “The Dimensions and Implications of Identity-Based Harassment Online”.

Undergraduate students working with Dr. Sarah Gatson won the School of Innovation Special Award for: The Most Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Team for their oral presentation at Student Research Week. The presentation was on Childhood Food Insecurity in the Brazos County. Grace Lu (International Studies), Devika Marwaha (Political Science) and Marita John (Biomedical Sciences) presented at the actual event but were also assisted by Tien Tran and Uyen Tran (both Biomedical Sciences).

Dr. Theresa Morris was elected the Women’s and Gender Studies Program Coordinator for 2019-2021.

Dr. Judy Linneman’s article Share, Show, and Tell: Group Discussion or Simulations Versus Lecture Teaching Strategies in a Research Methods Course published in Teaching Sociology (January 2019) was featured in Hot off the Press: Journal Highlights! section in the ASA Members News and Notes newsletter.
**Books**

**Dr. Joe Feagin**, together with José A. Cobas, Daniel J. Delgado, and Maria Chávez edited a new book with Routledge: *Latino Peoples in the New America: Racialization and Resistance*. The book has chapters authored by José A. Cobas and Joe R. Feagin; William D. Carrigan and Clive Webb; Rogelio Sáenz; Linda Valdez; Juan Salinas; Ana S. Q. Liberato; Isar Godreau; Julie A. Dowling; Marisa Sanchez; Girsea Martínez-Rosas and Elizabeth Aranda; Daniel J. Delgado and Frank J. Ortega; and Maria Chávez.

Nestor Rodriguez (UT Austin) says about the book: “Latino Peoples in the New America is a "must-read" contribution for many fields concerned with understanding past and present American racialization of Latinos through conquest, exploitation, and repression. Central to the analyses of several of the chapters is the White Racial Frame that relegates Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Tejanos, Dominicans, and others of Latin American descent to the lower sectors of society. As the volume illustrates, Latino struggles for inclusion, equality, and survival continue against social actions that subordinate Latino populations, especially state policies that create insecurity and fear among many Latino immigrant families, and hurl millions of Latinos out of the country.”

**Dr. Joe R. Feagin** (together with Edna B. Chun) published a new book with Routledge: *Rethinking Diversity Frameworks in Higher Education*. With the goal of building more inclusive working, learning, and living environments in higher education, this book seeks to reframe understandings of forms of everyday exclusion that affect members of nondominant groups on predominantly white college campuses. The book contextualizes the need for a more robust analysis of persistent patterns of campus inequality by addressing key trends that have reshaped the landscape for diversity, including rapid demographic change, reduced public spending on higher education, and a polarized political climate. Specifically, it offers a critique of contemporary analytical ideas such as micro-aggressions and implicit and unconscious bias and underscores the impact of consequential discriminatory events (or macro-aggressions) and racial and gender-based inequalities (macro-inequities) on members of nondominant groups. The authors draw extensively upon interview studies and qualitative research findings to illustrate the reproduction of social inequality through behavioral and process-based outcomes in the higher education environment. They identify a more powerful systemic framework and conceptual vocabulary that can be used for meaningful change. In addition, the book highlights coping and resistance strategies that have regularly enabled members of nondominant groups to address, deflect, and counteract everyday forms of exclusion.

The book offers concrete approaches, concepts, and tools that will enable higher education leaders to identify, address, and counteract persistent structural and behavioral barriers to inclusion. As such, it shares a series of practical recommendations that will assist presidents, provosts, executive officers, boards of trustees, faculty, administrators, diversity officers, human resource leaders, diversity taskforces, and researchers as they seek to implement comprehensive strategies that result in sustained diversity change.
Dr. Dudley L. Poston, Jr. (editor) published the 2nd edition of his *Handbook of Population* with Springer Nature. The 914 pages of content is greatly updated and improved from the first edition.

The 2nd edition of the Handbook of Population covers the major topics of the discipline of demography, including current substantive, methodological and theoretical issues of interest, as well as new and emerging topics in the field. In addition to revised, updated and extended versions of the 27 chapters that were included in the 1st edition of the Handbook published in 2005, the 2nd edition includes seven entirely new chapters covering the topics of children, adoption, sexuality, inequality, population psychology, rural demography, and obesity. The chapters in the 2nd edition expand our knowledge of the field, and raise awareness of the causes and the consequences of demographic behavior and events in societies throughout the world.

The 34 chapters and Prologue were authored/coauthored by 63 demographers.

Former and current Texas A&M faculty and former Texas A&M graduate students with chapters in the Handbook of Population include the following:

- Rogelio Saenz and Christina Morales, chapter 6, Demography of Race and Ethnicity
- Mary Ann Davis, chapter 8, Demography of Adoption
- Amanda K. Baumle, chapter 10, Demography of Sexuality
- Maria Perez-Patron and Bethany DeSalvo, chapter 13, Infant Mortality
- Arthur Sakamoto, chapter 17, Demography of Social Stratification
- Mark Fossett and Amber R. Crowell, chapter 21, Urban and Spatial Demography
- Ginny Garcia-Alexander, chapter 33, Demography of Obesity

Pinar Batur and Dr. Joe Feagin (editors) published a 2nd edition of the *Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations* with Springer. This 2nd edition of the Handbook explores how to conceptualize new realities of race and ethnic relations. Now that the decade of the 1960s, the pivotal moment of mobilization against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related tolerance is behind us, we are witnessing the intensification of racial and ethnic inequality, an increasing frequency of racial and ethnic conflict and violence, but also the sound of powerful voices of struggle against it. This volume examines contemporary issues and critical discussions regarding race and ethnic relations in the United States as well as globally. Case studies and comparative approaches examine the foundations of a comprehensive sociological theory of race and ethnic relations, such as connections between everyday interactions, as well as patterns of discrimination and segregation, and theoretical positions to activism. Chapters are updated reflecting contemporary issues and theoretical developments in the field. Includes new chapters focusing on topics such as global racism, environmental racism, criminalization, military, health and queer theory. This revised volume provides an updated solid reference book for those interested in race and ethnic studies.


Invited Presentations

Dr. Robert Durán has given numerous invited talks regarding his 2018 book The Gang Paradox: Inequalities and Miracles on the U.S.-Mexico Border. The talks include: Doña Ana Community College–East Mesa; University of Texas at El Paso; California State University, Northridge. He has been invited to: University of Utah and University of Illinois at Chicago.
Dr. Holly Foster received the **Chancellor EDGES Fellowship**, Texas A&M University which carries a bursary each year from 2019-2021. This Fellowship has been created to honor and recognize Texas A&M faculty who are nominated by their college for demonstrating significant accomplishment in their discipline and gaining recognition nationally and internationally for their scholarship.

**Chapters**


**PESCA Grants**

Two faculty have received PESCA grants.

**Dr. Holly Foster** received $10,000 for the project “Biosocial Stress Processes across the Early to Mid-Life Course: Pathways from Early Pubertal Timing to Women’s Later Health Inequalities”, co-authored with Dr. John Hagan and Dr. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn.

**Dr. Ernesto Amaral** (together with Dr. Valen Johnson and Dr. Edward Jones from the Department of Statistics received $24,849 for their project “Factors associated with internal and international migration at the local level in the United States.”

This project aims to estimate factors associated with internal and international migration flows to the United States. We will take advantage of restricted Census information about county of current and previous residence available at the Texas Research Data Center (TXRDC). The analysis will utilize a historical perspective by investigating data from Censuses and American Community Surveys between 1950 and 2017. The innovation of our methodology will be the inclusion of terms to deal with spatial dependence by measuring the influence of neighboring areas at origin and destination on the likelihood of migrating, using a Bayesian statistics approach.

We will also perform a network analysis related to these migration flows, considering different characteristics of migrants and areas. The use of PESCA award as a seed funding is essential to improve, test, and calibrate our methodology, as well as to demonstrate to external funding agencies that we have a consistent research strategy that can be applied to restricted census information.

**Invited Presentations**

Conference Presentations


Alex McIntosh, Billy Brocato, and Marisa Cisneros. 2019. “The Visiting the Body in the Ad Study: Methodology” Annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society at the University of Alaska. June.


Dissertations Defended

Dadao Hou “Securitization in the U.S. Banking Industry”

Crystal Murry “Zero tolerance school based policies: The effect of early punishment on school feelings and later punishment”

Shari Valentine “We Are Still Here: Indigenous Perspectives on Resistance.”

Chung Pei Pien “Environmental Policy and the Emergence of the Incineration Industry: A Case study of Beijing, China, 1989-2012”

Sharon Baker-Hughes “Sexual Minority Status: A Call for Standard Measures.”

Melissa Ochoa “Systemic Sexism in Our Everyday Lives”

Kate Willyard “The Effects of Organizational, Community, and State Regulatory Characteristics on Texas Oil and Gas Extraction Facility Venting and Flaring Practices.”

Richard Abel and Hyunseok Hwang defended their dissertation proposals. Richard’s proposal was titled “The enduring effects of ostracism examined through a stress-strain paradigm” and Hyunseok’s proposal was titled “The Value of Institutional Heterogeneity for Society: Varieties of Entrepreneurs and Legal Professionals.”

Angelique Maes accepted an Assistant Professor position at Wiley College in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities in Marshall Texas.

Kate Willyard accepted a Survey Statistician position in the Small Area Estimates Branch within the Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division of the United States Census Bureau.

Shari Valentine is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, Human Services, and Criminal Justice at Henderson State University. She is also the Chair of the Institutional Review Board at Henderson.

Chung-pei Pien is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Risk Society and Policy Research Center at National Taiwan University.