Greetings from the Division Chair

The fall semester is winding down, and I’m sure we are all looking forward to some downtime (even if it is just a little!) during the winter break. Before we head out for the break, I want to share important events, announcements, award opportunities, member spotlights, and other important information. First, I want to thank Margaret McGladrey, our newsletter editor, for her tremendous service to the division in putting together this newsletter. Thank you, Margaret! I also want to thank everyone who made the SSSP annual meeting a huge success. The presentations, round tables, and critical dialogue sessions were really fantastic. It is wonderful to see the strong and provocative scholarship of our division members. See page 2 for some pictures of the meetings.

I hope you will stay involved in YALC division activities this year by doing some of the following:

Submit a Paper to the 2017 Annual Meeting: The 2017 annual meeting call for papers is already out! View a list of YALC sessions and our co-sponsored sessions [here](#). Thanks to everyone who volunteered to organize the sessions. If you are interested in presiding over a session, please email me (jmontez@maxwell.syr.edu) or the specific session organizer. This is a great way to get involved in YALC.

Nominate Yourself or Someone Else for a YALC Division Award: Our division has two awards—a Graduate Student Paper Award and the Maggie Kuhn Scholar-Activist Award. See page 3 for a detailed description and due dates of the awards.

Serve on the Committee for the Graduate Student Paper Award or the Maggie-Kuhn Award: Again, this is a fun and easy way to get involved in YALC and see the great work that our members are doing. Please email me if you are interested in serving (jmontez@maxwell.syr.edu).

Mentor a Graduate Student and/or New Member at the Annual Meeting: SSSP is looking for volunteers to meet with graduate students and/or new members during the meeting to provide mentoring guidance and advise. This is a great way to get to know emerging scholars and our newer members. See page 3 for more information on how to volunteer.


Get to Know Two of Our Members by Reading the Member Spotlights on Page 4.

Thanks again for making the 2016 SSSP meetings a huge success. I hope you will stay involved this year and encourage your colleagues and students to get involved as well. Have a safe and relaxing winter break!

Best,
Jennifer Karas Montez
Edit Social Problems!

Applications Due January 15, 2017

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is soliciting applications for the position of Editor of the Society's flagship journal, Social Problems. The three-year term will begin with the operation of the new editorial office in mid-year 2018. The new editor will be responsible for editing and promoting volumes 66-68 (years 2019-2021). We seek a diverse pool of editorial candidates. Applicants must be members or become members of the SSSP by the time of their application and continue to be a member during their tenure as editor.

Candidates must have distinguished scholarly records, previous editorial experience, strong organizational and management skills, and the ability to work and communicate well with others, including with scholars in academic and non-academic settings. For a full description of the position and application process, please visit: http://www.sssp1.org/lib/announcements/SocialProblems_Editor.pdf

Please direct all inquiries, nominations, expressions of interest, and application materials to Dr. Corey Dolgon at cdolgon@stonehill.edu.

Call for Annual Award Competition Submissions

Please consider submitting a paper to the YALC Division’s annual award competition deadlines, eligibility criteria, and submission instructions are detailed below. Also, please consider volunteering to serve on the selection committees for these awards. If interested in serving on one or both of these committees, please contact Jennifer Kaas Montez (montezmaxwell.syr.edu).

Graduate Student Paper Award Deadline: 1/31/17

The Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems invites graduate students to submit a paper to the Graduate Student Paper Award competition. The paper can be theoretical and/or empirical, and must be directly related to some aspect of scholarship on youth, aging, and the life course. Current graduate students and recent graduates who received their degrees after January 2016 may submit a paper if it was written while a student. The paper must be either unpublished, or published after January 2016. Papers based on theses or dissertations are acceptable. Co-authored papers are also acceptable as long as all of the listed authors are current or recent graduate students, faculty, or non-graduate student co-authors are not allowed. Students may submit to only one SSSP student paper award competition; submission to multiple SSSP award competitions will disqualify the paper. The award recipient is expected to present the winning paper at the 2017 SSSP Annual Meeting in Montreal (August 11-13, 2017). To facilitate scheduling the presentation, the (lead) author must submit the paper through the Call for Papers process for the annual meeting. Regular submission through the Call for Papers process ensures that the winning paper can be placed on the program. The paper should be submitted to any Youth, Aging, and the Life Course (co)sponsored session by the January 31st deadline, as well as e-mailed separately to the Award Committee Chair as indicated below. The award recipient will be publicly announced at the Awards Ceremony and receive a plaque, a monetary prize of $100, a student membership to SSSP, and a SSSP conference registration. To have a paper considered for this award, please submit an electronic copy of the paper and a cover letter that includes a brief overview of the paper, identifies the graduate student (s) and status of all authors, and certifies that the paper meets all of the criteria for the award to Jennifer Kaas Montez at jmontezmaxwell.syr.edu.

The submission should be no more than 30 double-spaced pages (including references and notes); use 12-point font; be double-spaced throughout, use one-inch margins; and be prepared for anonymous review, with the author(s) specified only on the cover page and identifying references blinded.

Maggie Kuhn Award for Scholar-Activists Deadline: 3/15/17

Members of the Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems are encouraged to submit nominations for the Maggie Kuhn Award for Scholar-ACTivists.

Maggie Kuhn was the founder of the Gray Panthers, an intergenerational social justice organization. The Maggie Kuhn award, established in 2014, is awarded to a scholar-activist who upholds the ideals of social and economic justice, and peace, for individuals of all ages in both their scholarship and service. These ideals include, but are not limited to, honoring age, intergenerational work, and scholarship and/or activism that promotes a humane society by putting the needs of people over profits, responsibility over power, and democracy over institutions. For more information or to nominate a scholar-activist, please e-mail Jennifer Karas Montez at jmontezmaxwell.syr.edu.
Bookshelf: New Publications for Your Library


Robert Perrucci, Mangala Subramaniam, and Carolyn C. Perrucci, “Who Publishes to a Scholar-Activist who upholds the ideals of social and economic justice, and peace, for individuals of all ages in both their scholarship and service. These ideals include, but are not limited to, honoring age, activism that promotes a humane society by putting the needs of people over profits, responsibility over power, and democracy over institutions. For more information or to nominate a scholar-activist, please e-mail Jennifer Karas Montez at jmontez@maxwell.syr.edu.

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Member Spotlight

Each newsletter will spotlight two YALC members to give a
glimpse into the work and non-work lives of our section members.
The “Six Questions for...” asks members to reveal interesting and
little-known fun facts about themselves. The “Emerging Scholar Profile” showcases our graduate students and postdocs who are, or will soon be, on the job market. Please nominate yourself, a student, or a colleague for an upcoming issue.

Emerging Scholar Profile

Lacey J. Ritter, MA, MS, Doctoral Candidate in Sociology, Florida State University
Email: ljr12@my.fsu.edu
Website: http://coss.fsu.edu/sociology/content/lacey-ritter

I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Florida State University expecting to graduate in Spring 2017. My areas of interest include health and aging, mental health, sexualities, death and dying, and social psychology. I have strong interest in teaching. Before coming to Florida State University, I received a Master’s Degree in Sociology from Minnesota State University – Mankato, which emphasized college level instruction.

Two of my ongoing projects employ quantitative methods to study health outcomes. My dissertation uses data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) to study differences in health status and treatment seeking behaviors in older adult populations by same-sex contact (SSC) as a measure of sexual orientation. Initial analyses have found that SSC older adults report higher levels of STDs in their lifetimes, as well as higher alternative medicine usage than non-SSC older adults. Secondly, I am working on a project analyzing racial/ethnic and gender differences in influenza vaccination use among adolescents in the United States using data from the 2008-2013 National Immunization Survey-Teen.

My previous research has been primarily qualitative and included interview projects, ethnographic work, and content analysis. The first project focused on upwardly mobile individuals, describing their experiences with family conflict resulting from their socioeconomic change. A second interview project also employed participant observation to identify and discover gamers’ stigma management strategies in the college setting. (This paper is currently being revised for resubmission to Symbolic Interaction as a new manuscript.) This paper contributes to literature in social psychology by providing insight into individuals who actively choose to take on a stigmatized status in an effort to strengthen a sense of moral worth.

More recently, my research has focused on sexual orientation differences in health and career plans utilizing life course and social psychological perspectives. A collaborative research project with Koji Ueno and other graduate students used qualitative interviews with sexual minority college students on occupational outcomes. This work has resulted in a publication (forthcoming in Social Problems) and another paper currently in progress. Another collaborative project was a quantitative study on sexual orientation and internal migration, which was published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior (2015).

In addition to research, I have taught a variety of face-to-face, online, and hybrid sociology courses at several college institutions. My time at Florida State University has allowed me to teach Introductory Sociology, Methods of Social Research, Sociological Theory, Social Problems, and Sociology of Death and Dying (a course I began in the Sociology Department at Florida State University that will continue to be taught upon my graduation due to its popularity). In 2015, I also received a campus-wide Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for my Sociology of Death and Dying course. In addition to Introductory Sociology and Social Problems, I also taught Marriage and Families and Social Psychology at Bainbridge State College. Finally, I currently serve as the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) teaching assistant for the Department of Sociology, helping promote good teaching practices both within the department and across Florida State’s campus.

My long-term career goal is to be a professor who balances teaching students and applied, integrated sociological studies with relevant, innovative research focusing on health, sexual orientation, and aging. I hope to use my research to bring to light experiences of sexually active older adults, along with mental health outcomes and social relationship consequences tied to death and dying. I think these areas are often ignored or understudied in sociology and should be brought back into focus.

6 QUESTIONS FOR:

MARY PATRICE ERDMANS

Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University

1. What do you consider to be your hometown? Wyoming, Michigan (a suburb outside of Grand Rapids)

2. What is a typical [work] day like for you? [my weekends are very different] I try to wake between 5:30 and 6:00 and the first thing I do are my “morning pages.” These are three hand-written pages (that I show no one) for the purpose of revving up my brain and belching out my whining (I mostly just complain about everything and then after three pages I put my big black book away and start my work). I try to work on some aspect of my research every day and write something every day — on the best days this writing is related to my research but many days my writing is other-related (e.g., answering queries for newsletters about what a typical day is like or doing LORs or reviewing articles or books). If I am not writing on my project (my current project is an oral history of Soliarnos refugees who returned to Poland after 1989), then I do something to move that project forward such as reading, contacting people for interviews, typing up fieldnotes, writing memos, spending time on the web looking at cars in Poland in the 1960s. I try to give several hours of the morning to my research and then I give the rest of my day over to the duties I get paid for such as prepping lectures, teaching, grading (yuk), meeting with students (joy), admin duties (triple yuk). I teach only two days a week and put my classes in the late afternoon. I hoard my morning time. In the evenings, when I am not watching the World Series or NBA finals (Go Cleveland!!), I tend to read novels, drink wine, or go to a yoga class (not in that order).

3. What is one thing that many people do not know about you? I danced on stage with Neil Diamond in 1977 in Indianapolis. [He is very short and I am very tall so it was awkward.]

4. What is your favorite movie and why? The Sound of Music — probably because I love to sing, and because my mom was a former nun who likes to sing. My sisters, cousins and I knew all the words to all the songs before we saw the movie — and I am sure we bugged the shit out of everyone in the audience because we not only sang, but we sang loud, and tried to harmonize (I was about 6 at the time). I recently found an original score for the movie and sent it to my sister (who was 5 at the time we first saw the movie) and she promised she would relearn to play the songs. My second favorite is The Double Life of Veronique because of the haunting music of Zbigniew Preisner, the existential themes woven throughout the movie, and my fascination with the concept of a doppelganger.

5. What is one item on your bucket list? To be a batgirl for the Detroit Tigers.

6. What is the best piece of professional advice you have received? Write everyday.

Contribute to the YALC Facebook Page!

Do you have professional and publication news to share with your YALC colleagues between newsletter issues? If so, then sign up to serve as a contributing editor for the YALC Facebook page! Email newsletter editor Margaret McGladrey at margaret.mcgladrey@uky.edu for details.

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