Greetings from the Division Chair!

Please welcome our newly elected YALC Division Chair: Perri S. Leviss!

I am pleased to announce that Perri S. Leviss has been elected to a two-year term as the Chair of the Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Perri is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research interests focus on youth policy and the relationships between youth, adults, institutional structures, and policymakers. Prior to graduate school, Perri spent her career in public sector planning and policy development in the areas of public health, public education, and social services. She has also maintained her own strategic planning and management consulting practice serving governments, non-profits and universities throughout New York and New England. Perri has also served on the boards of youth leadership organizations and Jewish philanthropies and has authored several journal articles and textbook chapters. Please join me in welcoming Perri to her new role!

I look forward to seeing everyone in August for the annual meeting in Philadelphia! We have a terrific program in store (see page 2 for more details). Lastly, I want to you thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as the YALC division chair for the past two years. It has been a pleasure to meet everyone, learn more about the fabulous work of our division members, and serve the division.

Jennifer Karas Montez
YALC Division Chair 2016-2018
Professor of Sociology and the Gerald B. Cramer Faculty Scholar of Aging Studies
Syracuse University
Graduate Student Paper Award

I am very pleased to announce that the 2018 Graduate Student Paper Award goes to John Leverso (pictured at right) and Christian Hess, PhD students in the Department of Sociology at the University of Washington, for their paper “From the Hood to the Home: Masculinity Reformulation of Chicago Street Gang Members.” Thank you to the selection committee (Karen T. Van Gundy (Chair), Laurie Schaffner, Stephanie W. Burge) for your important service to the division!

The paper examines how gang members reformulate masculinity as they exit gang life and journey through the life course. In their study, the authors bridge scholarship on gang membership and the life course to understand how gang member masculinities are malleable and dynamic in the context of men’s social worlds. The authors conducted 29 qualitative interviews with former gang members and find masculinity reformulation is also associated with changing definitions, and associated behaviors, of masculinity at different points in the life course. In addition, the authors identify three pathways to masculinity reformulation: individuals merge gang masculinities with conventional masculinities, they transition to other masculinities completely, or they use negative affect toward the gang as a guiding force behind masculinity reformulation. Their study is theoretically innovative using theories of the life course, masculinities, and street gangs to form an expanded picture of the masculinities of gang involved individuals across the life course.

Maggie Kuhn Scholar-Activist Award

I am very happy to announce that the 2018 Maggie Kuhn Scholar-Activist Award goes to Phyllis Moen, Professor of Sociology and the McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair, at the University of Minnesota. Thank you to the selection committee (Koji Ueno (Chair), Laura Obermesser, Malou Windeler) for your terrific service to the division!

Through her scholarship, service, and outreach, Dr. Phyllis Moen has made distinguished contributions to the understanding of how paid work and caregiving responsibilities present obstacles to economic attainment, occupational fulfillment, and well-being, and how these obstacles differ by gender and age. She also has made substantial contributions to policy discussions and public discourse regarding worker insecurity and workplace inflexibility and policy changes to ameliorate these problems. She has worked tirelessly to promote social and economic justice. As an example, Dr. Moen is presently developing an institute at the University of Minnesota to serve prospective retirees who wish to explore opportunities, through workshops, seminars, and coursework, as they enter the next, post-career phase in their lives. Dr. Moen's generosity and influence on the field is also evident through her mentorship of legions of junior scholars. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Phyllis Moen!