



IN SOLIDARITY

Department of Sociology

Spring 2022

Hello Sociologists,

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our Spring 2022 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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**LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO**

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Message from the Chair, Dr. Rhys Williams



As I write this at the end of our March ‘spring’ break, we are now two years past the manifesting of the new coronavirus and covid-19 disease in our society.

Things are slowly adjusting, at least in some ways, back to pre-covid ways of living. Hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline, nationally and in Chicago, vaccines and booster shots are widespread. Many places

have now relaxed their mask mandates – although I admit to being startled and wary when I see someone in the grocery store without a mask; I keep my distance. For the time being, Loyola will continue its mask mandates in classrooms, a wise policy I think.

We also approach the one million mark for deaths attributed to covid-19 in the last two years – a staggering number. And so many thousands of people continue to struggle with the after-effects of the sickness, in ways that are still not well understood and often even without clear biomarkers. This doesn’t even count the jobs lost, businesses closed, relationships disrupted and the like. And the politicization of the disease and methods of coping with it continues to sow anger and distrust in our politics and collective life.

So, things are getting better, no doubt, but the costs, both past and on-going, cannot be forgotten.

Under the category of good things happening, LUC’s campuses are hopping with the largest first-year class in the university’s history. Applications for next year are also very strong, so there will no doubt be a sizable first-year class this coming year. The men’s basketball team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row by winning the Missouri Valley Conference’s year-end tournament. Many people on campus participated in a real-time virtual conversation with Pope Francis in February, hosted by Loyola’s Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS), the Department of Theology, and the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage. It was a first-of-its-kind event.

Within the Sociology Department, we have already learned that three of our current PhD students will receive Graduate School Fellowships for next year. The Sociology Graduate Student Association put on a successful student research symposium, with a keynote address from PhD alum Dr. Sean Young. Two of our PhD graduates, Dr. Gwendolyn Purifoye (2014) and Dr. Soulit Chacko (2020) have accepted new tenure-track jobs for next year – Dr. Purifoye at Notre Dame and Dr. Chacko at Boise State University. And one of our BA alums, Sarah (Frankie)

Frank, who is working on her PhD dissertation at the University of Wisconsin, has accepted a faculty position at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

Another new faculty member will join our department in the Fall semester of 2022. Dr. Teresa Irene Gonzales, who is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, will be bringing her expertise in urban sociology, the sociology of race and ethnicity, and community organizing to our LUC Sociology. She is a Chicago native, and has a book just out with New York University Press, titled *Building a Better Chicago: Race and Community Resistance to Urban Redevelopment*. You will read more about her in the Fall newsletter, but we are excited to know she will be here.

On a sad note for the department, Loyola University, and the greater community, professor emerita Judith G. Wittner died in late February, peacefully, while in hospice care. Judy was a gifted researcher, a phenomenal teacher and mentor, and an active advocate for marginalized people in all parts of her life. We are organizing a memorial celebration with the Women’s Studies and Gender Studies program here at Loyola, planned for April 7th. You will see more about Judy and the event later in the newsletter.

As always, you will find information here 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 their research, 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.

Finally, I want to note that this will be my last ‘chair’s column’ as chair of the Sociology Department. I have come to the end of my three-year term and have decided not to do another term. Along with the two terms I did as chair from 2009-2015 that is a total of nine years as department chair. It is enough for me, and I think time for the department to have a new person with new ideas and energy in the position. I am grateful for the opportunity, and grateful to my colleagues for this being such a collegial department to chair.

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 presented a paper co-written with James M. Johnson, and William H. Burr titled, “Financing Medical Education, Cumulative Debt, and the Social Psychology of Precarity among Newcomers to a High-Status Profession (2022),” at the Sociology of Health Professions Education Mini-conference hosted at the Eastern Sociological Society’s Annual Meeting. Boston, MA (virtual).

Dr. Dana Garbarski completed her term as the President of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research at the annual meeting November 2021. She and her colleagues presented 3 papers. In addition, she moderated a panel on the Cook County Community Survey, an interdisciplinary project with the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Paddy Gilger gave a joint presentation with Jose Casanova on public religion and global solidarity. Hosted by NSSR’s “Democracy Seminar”. Titled: [“Public Religions and Global Solidarity: A Conversation Between Jose Casanova and Fr. Patrick Gilger”](#), November 2021.

Dr. Paddy Gilger was invited to give a presentation for “Recovering Truth: Religion, Journalism, and Democracy in a Post-Truth Era,” a Luce Seminar sponsored by Arizona State University’s Center for Religion and Conflict, February 2022.

Dr. Paddy Gilger was interviewed on the AMDG podcast talking about Lent amidst a 2-year pandemic, March 2022. Link: <https://soundcloud.com/jesuitconference/gilger>.

Dr. Paddy Gilger wrote an essay titled [“Global Public Religions in an Age of Crisis”](#) forthcoming at Democracy Seminar, which will also be presented as a paper at the “On De-democratization and Democratic Innovation” Conference at NSSR, April 2022.

Dr. Paddy Gilger wrote an essay titled [“What’s Religious about Wokeness”](#) coming out in the April issue of *America* magazine.

Dr. Paddy Gilger wrote a paper titled “The Power of the Unfinished: Political Sociology for a Post-Secular Age” to be presented at “Small Things, Deep Resonance: The Sociology of Jeffrey C. Goldfarb” Conference at NSSR, April 2022.

Dr. Paddy Gilger wrote a paper titled “The Powers of Publicity: Religious Innovation and Democratic Renova-

tion in a Secular Age” presented at “A Quarter Century of Public Religions” Conference at Georgetown, April 2022.

Dr. Minwoo Jung published two articles: [“Embracing the Nation: Strategic Deployment of Sexuality, Nation, and Citizenship in Singapore”](#) in *The British Journal of Sociology* and [“Imagining Sovereign Futures: The Marriage Equality Movement in Taiwan”](#) in *Social Movement Studies*.

Dr. Minwoo Jung was awarded the Faculty Fellowship in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) from the LUC Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy. As a SOTL Faculty Fellow, he is conducting research on anti-racist and decolonial pedagogical strategies for teaching globalization.

Dr. Minwoo Jung presented his paper “Quiet Politics: Queer Organizing in Corporate Singapore” at the Sociology Department of Northwestern University’s Ethnography Workshop in November 2021.

Dr. Minwoo Jung served as an expert witness in a gender-based asylum application from South Korea to Canada at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada in January 2022 (the refugee application was recently approved!).

Dr. Minwoo Jung was awarded a Research Support Grant Competition for his project titled “Decolonizing Human Rights” from the LUC Office of Research Services.

Dr. Kelly Moore is the lead co-editor, with Bruno Strasser of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, of a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*. Moore and Strasser coauthored an introductory essay, titled, “The Shapes of Dissent: Masculinities, Protest, and Nuclear Expertise.”

Dr. Kelly Moore is second author, with Dr. Nathalia Hernández Vidal (University of North Texas, USA), of “Seed Schools in Colombia and the Generative Character of Sociotechnical Dissent.” In a forthcoming issue of *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*.

Dr. Rhys H. Williams recently published, “Religion” – a review essay – in a review symposium on *The Changing Dynamic of Government–Nonprofit Relationships*, by Kirsten Grønberg and Steve Rathgreb Smith. It appeared in the *Nonprofit Policy Forum* (online first 11-19-21) <https://doi.org/10.1515/npf-2021-0057>.



Dr. Elfriede Wedam has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Congratulations!



Dr. Judson Everitt has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

From Dr. Judson Everitt, Undergraduate Program Director



Greetings to all and happy spring! It's been very nice to be on campus for much of the year.

Registration for fall courses will begin on Apr 4th. I will be hosting a Zoom Advising Open House the week prior to registration week (details forthcoming, 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 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 sociolo-

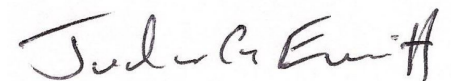
gy major requirements to take a close look at our other 100-level courses, our Tier II core courses. These courses count towards the major, are usually smaller in size than 101 sections, go more in-depth on particular substantive topics in sociology, and offer opportunities for closer faculty interaction 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.

Last year, we began assigning students faculty advisers.

Please be in touch with your adviser ahead of registration. If you are unsure who your adviser is, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, we have good news to share! Two of our majors were recently selected as awardees from the College of Arts and Sciences. Giselle Hernandez received a "Building Community Bridges" award, and Liv Eidukat received a "Building International Bridges" award.

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



Undergraduate *Kudos and Announcements*

Liv Eidukat received one of the twelve inaugural "Building International Bridges" awards from the College of Arts and Sciences that supports study abroad for juniors and seniors. She is in Spain this semester.

Giselle Hernandez received a 2021-2022 Building Community Bridges Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lauren Mendoza will attend the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago

Last fall, **Destiny Jacque** was a part of the DC Program and interned on Capitol Hill for Congresswoman Susan Wild (PA-07). This semester, Destiny is currently working analyzing public opinion and attitudes towards facial recognition technology for their sociology senior thesis.

Chelsea Tirado will attend the University of Illinois Chicago advanced standing social work master's program. She is "beyond excited" to begin coursework there.

Undergraduate Engaged Learning

Dr. Elfriede Wedam - SOCL 216 Students Visit to Kolbe House

On Feb. 5, twenty students from Sociology 216 Sociology of Violence visited Kolbe House Catholic Ministry to Cook County Jail. The students were hosted by several volunteers as well as staff of Kolbe House where they were shown artwork depicting some of the jail detainees' stories. They weren't allowed inside the jail but heard from a formerly incarcerated woman and the grandmother of a currently incarcerated young man. The students toured the perimeter of the jail complex, including the mental health clinic, each being the largest of its kind in the U.S. Students are currently engaging in various service activities, including writing letters to detainees, some of whom have been incarcerated for a few weeks while others for several years, awaiting adjudication. Other students are meeting with formerly incarcerated men while several have organized a donation campaign for basic food and personal care items that are in short supply in the jail.

A group of students from SOCL 216 held a fundraiser on April 12th and 14th for Kolbe House Jail Ministry as well to support detainees and the formerly incarcerated from Cook County Jail.



COME DONATE!

**APRIL 12 & 14
DAMEN STUDENT CENTER**

We are collecting donations for Kolbe House Jail Ministry, which serves detainees & the formerly incarcerated from Cook County Jail

- REQUESTED DONATIONS:
- Granola/Protein Bars
 - Fruit & Applesauce Cups
 - Microwavable Soup
 - Cracker Snack Packs
 - Chips/Cookies
 - Gift Cards (Target, Subway, Walmart, Payless Shoes)
 - Virtual Donations \$\$



Graduate Report

From Dr. Marilyn Krogh, Graduate Program Director



Spring is here! We welcome the longer days of sunshine and the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduate students. Congratulations to **Thomas Covault** and **Vanessa Rangel**, on the completion of their respective master's degrees in January 2022! And looking forward, congratulations to **Quintin Williams**, who is

receiving his Ph.D. this May for his dissertation titled, "*An Insecure Future: Housing Instability and Prisoner Reentry Outcomes in Polk and Palm Beach Counties.*" Quintin is continuing to work at the Joyce Foundation on criminal justice issues. Also, **Ashley Baber** is defending her dissertation this April. It is titled, "The Growth of Flexible Labor, The Labor of Flexible Growth: Labor Market Intermediaries and the City." Both Quintin and Ashley will be walking in the May graduate commencement ceremony. Congratulations to both of them!

Several others graduate students anticipate finishing their degrees this spring or summer and will be walking in the May commencement ceremony. After the ceremony, members of the department will resume our tradition of meeting family and friends outside for well-wishes and photos.

This past fall, BA/MA student **Shawn Enright** was awarded the Presidential Medallion in the College of Arts and Sciences—the highest honor given by the university. Wow! Congratulations as well to the three graduate students who have been awarded fellowships for the 22-23 academic year! **Stephanie Jean-Baptiste** has been awarded the Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship, and both **Fatema Zohara** and **Dana LaVergne** have been awarded Teaching Scholars Fellowships.

We've enjoyed a rich intellectual life this semester. Highlights have included the departmental Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, and the Graduate School 3MT, where **Maggie Jones** placed second. In February, the Sociology Graduate Symposium featured presentations from students in our department, where **Kajal Patel** and **Maggie Jones** won top honors, and alumnus Dr. **Sean Young** gave the keynote address. In March, several students contributed to the 15th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium as presenters, judges, and organizers. **Kajal Patel** won best social science paper. A major thanks is due to **Tori Olson** for her dedicated and efficient work "behind the scenes" to make several of these events possible.

Registration for the summer and fall semesters is underway. Please speak with your advisor and contact Dr. Krogh for permission to register. This summer, by popular demand, Dr. Everitt will be teaching a course on the sociology of education. Don't miss it!

A note to continuing graduate students; your advisors will soon be asking you for a brief report on your progress this past academic year in order to prepare for the annual graduate student review. Please do respond in a timely way. And finally, please plan to join us on **Friday April 29** for our annual departmental graduation and awards ceremony. It's a fine way to finish the semester.

Graduate Student

PUBLICATIONS ♦ AWARDS ♦ FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS ♦ PRESENTATIONS

In March 2022, **Christopher Hansen** presented research at the annual meeting for the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine entitled "Mental Health and Suicide Risk Disparities among Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Adolescents during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from CDC's COVID Experiences (CovEx) Surveys."

Melissa Kinsella will be presenting at two sessions during the upcoming Midwest Sociological Society's (MSS) Annual Meeting. The first presentation will be in a teaching technique session entitled, "Assessing and Implementing the Needs of Graduate Student Instructors." The other presentation will be in a research restarts roundtable entitled, "A 'Scary Time' to be a Man? Comparing Men's Engagement with Sexual Violence and Anti-Sexual Violence Discourses in the Private and Public Spheres."

In December 2021, **Melissa** and Seth Behrends, PhD student in sociology at University of Illinois at Chicago, rec-

orded a podcast interview with Dr. William "Buddy" Scarborough regarding his forthcoming article in *Gender & Society*. The article and podcast discuss Dr. Scarborough's findings pertaining to economic and cultural determinants of mothers' employment status. The podcast will be available on Sage's podcast collections for [Gender & Society](#) as well as [Gender & Society's word press](#) site.

Kelya Navarrete and **Juanita Vivas** respectively gave presentations titled "Policing and Criminal Justice: Perceptions of Cook County residents" and "Perceptions of local environmental issues among Cook County residents" for the Cook County Community Survey: Enduring and Emerging Issues in Chicago and Suburban Cook County panel at the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research (MAPOR) 46th Annual Conference in November.

Graduate Student

PUBLICATIONS ♦ INTERNSHIPS ♦ FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS ♦ PRESENTATIONS

Maggie Jones placed 2nd in the university graduate school's three minute thesis competition with her presentation: "The Persistence of Media Bias Against Candidates of Underrepresented Identities."



Maggie Jones and **Kajal Patel** were named the two winners of the Sociology Graduate Symposium.

Lillian Platten had a book review published in *Symbolic Interaction* in January. The review is titled "Negotiating Hope: Cultural Health Capital's Role in the Healthcare System" and it is a review of "*Save My Kid: How Families of Critically Ill Children Cope, Hope, and Negotiate an Unequal Healthcare System* By Amanda M. Gengler (New York University Press, 2020).

Julie Szamocki served the Sociology graduate student community as President of GSA, GSAC Sociology Representative, Graduate Student Member of the Colloquium Committee, and Coordinator of the Peer Mentor Program. Julie participated in the departmental Three-Minute-Thesis competition, presented at the Sociology Graduate Student Research Symposium, and was a moderator and judge at the GSAC Interdisciplinary Research Symposium.

Ryan Wong published with the journal *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*. The title of the paper is "[The Separation of Religious and National Identity among American Youth](#)".

Ryan Wong has a paper accepted for publication for the Fall 2022 issue of *context* called "Cancel Culture: The Good, The Bad, The Complicated."

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

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

Teaching Scholars Fellowship:

Fatema Zohara and **Dana LaVergne** have each been awarded a **Teaching Scholars Fellowship** for the academic year 2022-23. This fellowship recognizes advanced graduate students who have been successful teachers of record in the college. During their award year, they will teach one class for the department and serve as a mentor to novice graduate instructors who are participating in the Teaching Effectiveness Seminar.

Schmitt Fellowship:

Stephanie Jean-Baptiste has been awarded the **Arthur J. Schmitt Leadership Scholars Fellowship** for academic year 2022-23. This fellowship supports students who are in the last stage of writing their dissertations, and recognizes not only the intellectual merit of their dissertation, but also, importantly, their leadership contributions on campus and beyond. Stephanie's dissertation is titled, "*Ou pa Moun Bò Isit: Hatian locals' Attitudes towards NGO representatives.*"

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 and faculty present and discuss the various topics of Sociology of Religion.



From Mensch to Macho: The Social Construction of a Jewish Masculinity

Speaker: Dr. Elise Martel

Virtual Event: March 31st, 2 - 3 PM
Zoom Link: <https://luc.zoom.us/j/84135034246>



This spring, Dr. Elise Martel Cohen gave a presentation titled "From Mensch to Macho—The Social Construction of Jewish Masculinity." 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 Corner

Tori Olson—Leadership Roles Throughout the University



I began the academic year as an invited panelist for Loyola University’s Return to Campus Webinar. I spent the year serving as the President of the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) in which I led a council of 20+ representatives from various departments located within The Graduate School. GSAC hosted multiple social and service events for graduate students over the year. Through this role, I also coordinated The Graduate School’s 15th Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium which served as an opportunity for over 40 students from 20+ programs to present their new and ongoing research. I served as the Vice President of Sociology’s Graduate Student Association (GSA), in which I also initiated and coordinated the department’s 1st Annual Sociology Graduate Student Symposium. I held various roles as a graduate student representative on College of Arts and

Sciences’ Gender and Equity Taskforce, the One Loyola Libraries Taskforce, the Council of Graduate School Programs, and the Graduate Studies Coordinating Board. I served as a liaison between faculty and students both at the departmental level and university level by attending monthly Sociology faculty meetings, holding monthly meetings with Dean of the Graduate School, Emily Barman, and staying in frequent communication with all administrators of The Graduate School on behalf of graduate students.

As for achievements outside of academia, I completed my first marathon—the Chicago Marathon—in October! And the next weekend, I flew to Colorado to run a half marathon in the Rockies.

Kajal Patel—Presenting and Workshopping MA Research

This semester has been exciting in terms of being able to present my ongoing MA thesis research titled “To be Fair: Colorism and Online Dating among Young South Asians” at different events. I had the opportunity to compete at the Sociology 3MT and was named one of the two winners who went on to the Loyola wide competition. The 3MT provided a great chance to practice public speaking in terms of presenting research. A few weeks later, I was able to present my MA thesis in a longer format at the GSA symposium, in which I was named one of the two winners. That was a great night to see and understand the interesting works my fellow peers are conducting. Finally, I presented my research at the GSAC Interdisciplinary Symposium, and I was honored to be named as the winner of the social science category. This was the largest symposium that I had the chance to compete at and it was amazing to see all the fascinating research students at Loyola are conducting. I am grateful for all the opportunities provided by the Sociology department and Loyola as a whole to present my MA thesis.



2021-22 GSA OFFICERS:

President

Julie Szamocki

Vice President

Tori Olson

Treasurer

Lillian Platten

Social Media

Rachel Troeger
Kajal Patel

Events

Leah Allen
Kelly Hadfield

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)

The Sociology Graduate Student Association had a productive year. We hosted a Town Hall Event with Dr. Williams as a forum for graduate student concerns. We successfully ran the first annual Graduate Student Research Symposium in February with six presenters, over thirty attendees, and an alumni keynote speaker. We hosted a monthly event, Caffeinate and Communicate, where graduate students were able to discuss current events with peers through a sociological lens. We did a month-long service event, donating goods and clothing to local organizations in February. GSA also hosted two end-of-the-semester social events where Sociology graduate students were able to chat over a drink at Ireland’s. GSA shared books, podcasts, memes, and other entertainment recommendations while also relating them to Sociological concepts on our social media pages. We also managed reimbursement funds for students attending and presenting at a variety of conferences. We look forward to continuing our work next year!

Alumni News

Nicholas Burdi is pursuing an MA in Public Policy with a focus in global conflict at the University of Chicago's Harris School.

William Burr co-authored and presented an article with Dr. Judson Everitt and Dr. James Johnson titled "Financing Medical Education, Cumulative Debt, and the Social Psychology of Precarity among Newcomers to a High-Status Profession." The paper was presented at the Sociology of Health Professions Education Mini-conference hosted at the Eastern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (virtual).

Jennifer Cossyleon gave a presentation at Loyola hosted by the Sociology department on April 13th titled "The

Landscape of Collective Parent Action: Designing and Conducting Research in Applied Settings."

Kathleen Flores, class of 2016, completed their MBA from Concordia University Chicago this past December 2021.

Kevin Miller recently published an article titled, "[They're Not Closing This School, We Won't Let Them. Journal of Human Rights and Social Work, 1-10, \(2021\).](#)"

Diana Guelespe started a new position at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, as an Equity Scholar in January. Here is the link to the [press release](#) and [open letter](#) from the president of the organization.

Jonathan Neidorf started last may working remotely from Chicago at the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota as a researcher. Their work focuses on deinstitutionalization, self-directed services, and criminal justice and how they impact people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Gary Schlesinger, class of 1967, has been practicing law in Illinois for 50 years, and named a super lawyer for 18 years.

Sean Young was the keynote speaker at the first Sociology GSA symposium, presenting a talk titled "The Community Context of Research: Developing an Agenda with Community-Based Organizations."

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Diosa Bahe—Gonzaga University School of Law

My name is Diosa Bahe. I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Loyola Chicago in May 2021. With the help and guidance of Dr. Kathleen Maas Weigert (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Peter Bergeron (Dept. of Philosophy), I gained admission to Gonzaga University School of Law. I started my 1L year at Gonzaga in August 2021. It has been an amazing experience thus far and has been especially rewarding to see the intersections between Sociology and Law, and a comfort to know that my time with the Sociology Department has prepared me well for success in my doctrinal courses.

At Gonzaga, I've been working with a group of students in my cohort to establish the GU Law chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Throughout my role as Treasurer of this chapter, I've had the opportunity to conduct outreach to various businesses throughout Spokane to secure partnerships and funding to kickstart our mission, which is to provide legal protection for non-human animals as sentient beings in the eyes of the law. I'm very excited to see what the next two years has in store for us, and proud of the work that we've done thus far.

I am also happy to have secured a legal internship with the Western Environmental Law Center this summer in Portland, OR. I'm looking forward to exploring a new city and engaging in the critical fields of environmental and animal conservation law.

I am so grateful for my time in Chicago and for all of my professors at Loyola that helped me get to where I am in my academic career. (Also, shout-out to Dr. Krogh, hope you're doing well and having an awesome semester!)

Go Ramblers/Zags!

Alumni News

Caitlin Botsios—Helix Education

Caitlin Botsios earned a BA in sociology at Loyola in 2012, and is the co-owner of Helix, a non-profit in Edgewater that engages high school students in community work and learning. Helix has partnered with several Loyola classes in the past, and currently is collaborating with my students in Sociology 127 "Social Analysis and Social Action." The sociology students are working on a range of projects with Helix.

At Helix, Caitlin and her partner and fellow Loyola alum Sean Connolly are helping Rogers Park's Sullivan students open a small business on their high school's campus, developing a partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority, planning a Clark Street block party and developing a new, nine-month internship program. They also design and sell lesson plans to schools in Chicago and central Washington state that focus on project-based learning.



Here's a link to a recent Phoenix story about Caitlin's work: [Loyola Alumni Close Helix Cafe, Rebrand their Non-Profit with Students' Help \(loyolaphoenix.com\)](http://loyolaphoenix.com)



Danny Drees—Trans Youth Activist and Author

"Transgender people, especially transgender youth, have been targeted in hundreds of bills passed in statehouses throughout the country over the last several years. These bills have created unnecessary harm and stress, especially for young people. The intention of these bills violates the call for Catholics and Catholic institutions to uphold the human dignity of all people. If you're not already aware of this issue, please consider learning more, discerning how you can help affirm the human dignity of LGBTQ+ people, and taking other action to help transgender people and transgender youth. You can find more information at hrc.im/ProtectTransKids." - Danny Drees

Danny Drees, class of 2017, recently self-published a book that reframes the choice to live without a car as a way to save money, be happier and healthier, and make the world a better place. A passion project rather than academic publication, this ebook makes new and untraditional suggestions on how to live life without a car. The book can be found [here](#).

"Car(e)free will forever change the way you think about personal transportation in America. Drees journeys into the hard truths (and the negative impacts) of owning a car and demonstrates the multitude of personal, community and environmental benefits when you choose walking or biking. I love how he weaves in mindfulness - a good reminder to slow down! To sum up: informative, easy to read, and inspiring." - Elizabeth Lovinggood, Amazon

Remembering Judy Wittner

Dr. Judith Wittner
(1939-2022)

Professor Emerita Judith G. Wittner passed away on February 16, 2022. Judy received her MA and Ph.D. from Northwestern University and began teaching at Loyola in 1976. She retired in 2015 but her legacy remains in the multiple ways that she influenced Sociology and Women's Studies/Gender Studies at Loyola and beyond. She helped to establish the Women's Studies Program at Loyola (the first such program at a Jesuit University) and was the graduate director in Sociology for two terms.

Professor Wittner was widely published and considered to be an expert in the fields of the sociology of sex/gender and qualitative methodologies. She was a visiting professor in gender studies and sociology in Nigeria, El Salvador and Lithuania. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, she was the co-editor of *Gatherings in Diaspora: Religious Communities and the New Immigration* (Temple University Press, 1998). She co-authored one of the most well-



known textbooks in the sociology of gender, *Gendered Worlds* (Oxford University Press) first published in 2009 and is now in its 4th edition. She also authored many public sociology research reports including work on domestic violence court and the needs of Chicago's aging homeless population in conjunction with the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL). She was a Sujack Master Teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences, a Mellon Scholar in Residence at Wellesley College Center for Research on Women and the Sociologists for Women in Society Mentor of the Year.

But administrative positions, books, awards and degrees alone do not fully capture the scholar and force that Judy was. She was a wise and compassionate mentor, teacher and friend to students, staff and faculty colleagues alike. Judy was the conscience of the department. No matter what the issue, she was there to speak truth to power (usually on the side with the oppressed) and listen to and encourage colleagues and students to do the same with honesty, wisdom and generosity. She had an ability to draw people into conversations about issues that mattered. We remember the lessons Judy has taught us: To study the world, study up, not down. It is our responsibility to study and fight for those who do not have power.

For those of us who knew Judy a long time and were colleagues in the Department of Sociology this loss is deep.

Remembering Judy Wittner

Remembrances include Marilyn Krogh, Associate Professor of Sociology who writes:

Judy was very hospitable--to all of us as a collective, and to us as individuals. Back in the day, she opened her home on multiple occasions for lively "Work in Progress" potlucks and presentations. And when I was a new faculty member, she read a couple draft manuscripts for me, and offered helpful guidance with a generous dash of encouragement--that was much needed and appreciated!

Newly tenured and promoted Associate Professor Judson Everitt writes:

Judy was fearless. And she was fearless in virtually everything - her scholarship, her teaching, her activism, her mentoring. She was unafraid to "speak up and speak out," as she would put it, and she encouraged her students to do the same. In her scholarship, she was unafraid to put herself in difficult places as an ethnographer and document things that needed to be examined and brought to light. In her teaching, she was unafraid to put herculean effort into hours and hours of reading grad students' field-notes assignments and give them priceless feedback. Finally, Judy was unafraid to just be human with people, and her students and colleagues alike benefited from this in countless ways during her time in the department. Thanks, Judy.

Senior Lecturer Elfriede Wedam writes:

Dear Judy,

Whenever I think of your "Menschlichkeit," my eyes well up. I remember the times you drove me to the airport, shared a glass of wine or bourbon (always neat), went to the movies with me, listened to me reading from the Book of Job. There was never a day or time when your office door was not open; you were never too busy to talk. I cannot even recall a day when you were not in your office. Judy, I miss you today and every day.

Love,
Elfriede

To read more about Judy Wittner's life and legacy, her family has posted her memorial at <https://everloved.com/life-of/judith-wittner/obituary/>. There will be a public memorial on May 28th. Contact Anne Figert at afigert@luc.edu for more information or go to the Department of Sociology Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LUCsociology>.

