



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY
College of Arts and Sciences

The Department of Sociology's Semester Newsletter, Spring 2022



Covered in this Issue:

Message from Our Department Head.

Professor Emeritus is Recognized for their Excellence in Research.

Faculty and Graduate Students, Partner Together for Research.

We Welcome – Dr. Ashley Railey and Dr. Adam Roth

Graduate Students – Research, Presentations, and Community Conversations

Ph.D. Graduates Prepare for the Future Ahead

Undergraduate Program News – We're Going Online!

Awarding Students for their Excellence in Sociology

Undergraduate News – The Sociology Club



Message from Our Department Head:

Dear Friends of the OSU Sociology Department,

I am excited to share events of the 2021-22 academic year! I continue to see the dedication and creativity of our students, faculty, and staff. Our department members are amazing! I am honored to work with them as a colleague and Department Head.

This year we began our curricular revisions to enhance offerings in the Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), Environment and Society, and Social Services areas. We've also been preparing for the General Sociology BS/BA Program launches at OSU-Tulsa and online starting in the Summer of 2022.

We'll also see some changing faces this summer, with both departures and new additions. Sarah Lyon, our Administrative Support Specialist, friendly front desk face, and magician behind our web and social media content is leaving for another position at OSU. Best wishes for your new adventures, Sarah! Two new faculty members will be joining the Sociology Department this summer. Dr. Adam Roth – Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University; Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology & Network Science Institute at Indiana University – engages in research and teaching in the areas of Health, Life Course/Aging, Family, Social Networks, Space and Place. His interests enhance existing Departmental strengths in Social Inequality. Dr. Ashley Railey - Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Economics, Global Health, Sociology)

from Washington State University; Post-Doctoral Fellow at Indiana University – engages in research and teaching in the areas of Health Economics, Health Services & Delivery, and Social Psychology. Her work enhances existing strengths in Social Inequality and Social Psychology. Welcome, Drs. Roth and Railey!

Thanks to generous donor support, in addition to our yearly scholarship awards this year, we will offer several 'Sociology Student Support Scholarships.' The Sociology Student Support Scholarship uses funds from the Sociology General Scholarship Fund to provide emergency academic financial support for Sociology majors. Thank you to our donors for their generous contributions to making scholarships possible for our students!

I am immensely proud of the Sociology community we are building at OSU and of our undergraduate and graduate students as they use the skills gained in our program to pursue their goals. Our research productivity has increased, we're offering exciting courses to engage current and future students, and we're making an impact with our service activities on campus and in the broader community.

As OSU Sociology looks forward to the next academic year, I welcome alumni to be in touch. Share your experiences, accomplishments, and life transitions with us! It is always a pleasure to hear from you!

Please visit our website at <https://sociology.okstate.edu/> or visit us on social media for regular updates.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara L. Mix". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Tamara L. Mix, PhD
Dresser Professor and Department Head of Sociology

Professor Emeritus is Recognized for their Excellence in Research



Dr. Riley Dunlap was named as one of the researchers on the Highly Cited Researchers 2021 list from Clarivate! The prestigious annual list identifies researchers who demonstrated significant influence in their chosen field or fields through the publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade.

[READ MORE](#)

Faculty and Graduate Students, Partner Together for Research



Dr. Jonathan Coley has co-authored several recent articles with a few of our sociology graduate students. More information on those may be found below:

Coley, Jonathan S., Dhruva Das, and Gary J. Adler, Jr. 2022. "Creating Sacred Spaces: Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim Student Groups at U.S. Colleges and Universities." <i>Sociology of Education</i> , forthcoming.
Schachle, Jessica L., and Jonathan S. Coley. 2022. "Making Space: Racialized Organizations and Student of Color Groups at U.S. Colleges and Universities." <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i> , forthcoming.
McElroy, Jericho R., and Jonathan S. Coley. 2021. "Gun-Free Zones? Political Opportunities, Resource Mobilization, and Shooting Sports Organizations at U.S. Colleges and Universities." <i>Sociological Inquiry</i> 91(2): 398-425.
Coley, Jonathan S., and Jessica L. Schachle. 2021. "Growing the Green Giant: Ecological Threats, Political Threats, and U.S. Membership in Sierra Club, 1892-Present." <i>Social Sciences</i> 10(6), article 189.



Dr. Rachel Schmitz also authored many articles over the past year, including co-authoring several recent articles with some of our former Ph.D. graduates. More information on those may be found below:

Carlisle, Zachary T. and Rachel M. Schmitz. 2021 Online First. "Hidden in Plain Sight: Men's Lived Experiences with Sexual Violence as College Students." <i>The Journal of Men's Studies</i> . https://doi-org./10.1177/10608265211050679
Estes, Michelle, Zachary T. Carlisle, and Rachel M. Schmitz. 2021 Online First. "Those are Typical Tell-Tale Signs of a Lesbian': Young Adults' Discussions of Gender Nonconforming Behavior." <i>Journal of Family Issues</i> . https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X211022395
Schmitz, Rachel M., Zachary T. Carlisle*, and Jennifer Tabler. 2021 Online First. "Companion, Friend, Four-Legged Fluff Ball': The Power of Pets in the Lives of LGBTQ+ Young People Experiencing Homelessness." <i>Sexualities</i> . https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460720986908

Robinson, Brandon Andrew and Rachel M. Schmitz. 2021. "Beyond Resilience: Resistance in the Lives of LGBTQ Youth." *Sociology Compass*. 15:e12947. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12947>

Schmitz, Rachel M., Jennifer Tabler, Zachary T. Carlisle, and Lexi Almy. 2021. "LGBTQ+ People's Mental Health and Pets: Novel Strategies of Coping and Resilience." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 50:3065-3077. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-021-02105-6>

Schmitz, Rachel M. and Jennifer Tabler. 2021. "Traversing Barriers to and within Health Care among LGBTQ+ Latinx Emerging Adults: Utilizing Patient Experiences to Model Access." *The Patient Experience Journal* 8:33-42.

We Welcome – Dr. Ashley Railey and Dr. Adam Roth



Dr. Ashley Railey joins the Department this summer as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Railey also joins us from Indiana University, where she was a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Railey received her Ph.D. from Washington State University under a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Program for Enhancing the Health and Productivity of Livestock (PEHPL) in

Tanzania. She also worked for the Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) at Washington State.



Dr. Adam Roth will be also joining the Department beginning this summer as an Assistant Professor! Dr. Roth comes to Oklahoma State University having worked as a postdoctoral research fellow in the department of sociology and network science institute at the Indiana University. Dr. Roth received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Washington State University.

Dr. Roth's research addresses how the social environment influences personal health and well-being. Using a broad array of data (e.g., prospective surveys, time-use diaries, geo-coded mortality records, neuroimaging phenotypes), Dr. Roth examines health-related outcomes among older adults and the general population. His main aim is to draw attention to the importance of social context by exploring the types of communities, social networks, and families within which individuals are embedded. Roth' work has appeared in outlets such as *Social Science & Medicine*, *Sociology of Health & Illness*, *Journals of Gerontology*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, and *Social Networks*.

Welcome, Dr. Railey and Dr. Roth!

Dr. Schmitz and Lucy for P3 in OKC

Dr. Rachel Schmitz and Lucy Schmitz of Pete's Pet Posse paid a visit to the Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, Student Club fair this past January! Dr. Schmitz and Lucy represented Pete's Pet Posse and helped promote student organizations and institutional resources offered to the Cowboy Family.



The Pete's Pet Posse Mission is to enhance the well-being of the Cowboy family through professionally trained and nationally certified pet therapy teams in collaboration with campus resources and generous supporters. Lucy and Dr. Schmitz have been members of Pete's Pet Posse since 2019 and participate in various therapy sessions and pet therapy events across campus.



Graduate Students – Research, Presentations, and Community Conversations



The Department of Sociology graduate students held a “Presentations and Community Conversations” event this past March. The in-person event allowed graduate students to gain experience presenting and discussing their work and allowed for pragmatic feedback to strengthen projects at any stage of development.



Presentations included those as follows:

“Becoming an “Anti-Diet” Dietitian: Dietitians’ Mobilization into the *Heath at Every Size* Movement” by **Gabby Gomez**

“Representation of Women in News Coverage of the 2018 Oklahoma Teacher Walkout” by **Jessica Schachle**

“Legitimizing or Contesting the Treadmill of Law on Wet’suwet’en Traditional Territory” by **Olivia Fleming**



In addition to the presentations, **Lexi Almy** and **Maggie Leon-Corwin** hosted an informal department-wide, virtual community conversation. Almy's discussion surrounding the topic "how can Self-care Improve Student Flourishing," and Leon-Corwin's on "Coming Back "After" COVID: A Community Conversation."



Fourth-year doctoral student, **Martha Sibley** participated in the Harte Research Institute's 2021 [Student Workshop on International Coastal and Marine Management \(SWIMM\)](#) program. This coordinated effort brings together graduate students from the United States, Mexico, and Cuba for week-long workshops involving peer-to-peer exchanges, shared learning, and intensive interactions with scientists, managers, and practitioners. Due to changes in formatting related to travel restrictions and the COVID-19 pandemic, the program began with a weeklong virtual meeting in June 2021 and continued with weekly meetings throughout the remainder of 2021. In May 2022, Martha will travel to Mérida, Mexico, to participate in a week-long peer-exchange event and present the findings of an Environmental Report Card for the Alacranes Reef, an offshore reef on the Campeche Bank. Indicators included in the report assess the health of environmental and socio-economic systems of both the reef and stakeholder communities in coastal Yucatán State, and examine positive and negative changes over time. The report card provides information to mitigate the threat and impact of stony coral tissue loss disease, which has not reached the Alacranes Reef at this time.

Ph.D. Graduates Prepare for the Future Ahead



Adam Straub successfully defended his dissertation this past Spring 2022 semester. Dr. Straub's dissertation is entitled "Rural Oklahoma and the Nexus of Disaster Vulnerability, Risk, and Resilience."

Dr. Straub has also accepted a position as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) at Rowan University this fall, and moves out to Glassboro, NJ this summer!

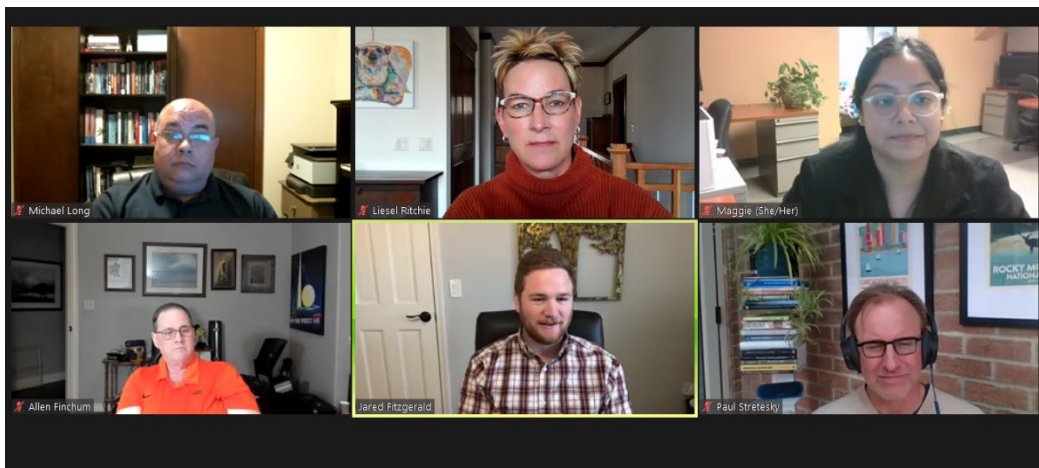


Jericho McElroy successfully defended his dissertation this past Spring 2022 semester as well. Dr. McElroy's dissertation is entitled "THE SOCIAL CONTROL OF FIREARMS IN U.S. STATES: A PANEL STUDY OF STATE-LEVEL FIREARM LAW ENACTMENT".

Dr. McElroy has also accepted a position as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) of Sociology and Criminology, at Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL beginning this August! The focus of his teaching in this position will be the analysis of the U.S. criminal justice system, including the disparities rooted in race and ethnicity. Teaching will include courses such as: Introductory Sociology, Criminology, Social Problems, the U.S. Prison System, Social Deviance, and Juvenile Delinquency.

Dr. McElroy's research will continue to focus on the economic, social, and political determinants of firearm legislation in U.S. states and inequality in U.S. prisons using a green criminological and environmental justice perspective.

Dr. McElroy states "I am most looking forward to getting back into the classroom and establishing classroom-community connections that focus on advocacy, service, and addressing needs in the community."



Maggie Leon-Corwin successfully defended her dissertation this past Spring 2022 semester also. Dr. Leon-Corwin's dissertation is entitled "Environmental Risk Perceptions of Shale Gas Development in Oklahoma and Colorado: A Quantitative and Spatial Examination."

Congratulations to Adam Straub, Jericho McElroy, and Maggie Leon-Corwin!

Undergraduate Program News – We're Going Online!

The Department of Sociology is thrilled to announce the recent launch of our new online programming!

Students can now earn their BA or BS in Sociology from Oklahoma State University entirely online! With this expansion, the department hopes to further its long-standing tradition of serving students around the globe. Providing a degree program online not only allows for engagement with students in new and cutting-edge ways but also reaches a more diverse population of students than ever before. For more details on these exciting new options, feel free to visit our webpage or reach out to our Undergraduate Advisor, Laken Pruitt.

Awarding Students for their Excellence in Sociology



The Department of Sociology held its annual Awards Ceremony for the first time since 2019 – honoring recipients of awards from past years, and our 2022 award recipients.



Undergraduate Student Awards:

Benjamin Gregory Wood Award - Francisco Hernandez

Mabel Dixon Looper Award - Sury Yanez

O.D. Duncan Award - Savannah Highfill

Outstanding Senior Award - Savannah Highfill

Richard Dodder Award - Trinity July



Graduate Student Awards:

The O.D. Duncan Award: Kugbeme Isumonah

The Richard Dodder Award: Jessica Schachle

The Sarah Belusko Award(s): Olivia Fleming and Dhruba Sinha



The College of Arts and Sciences also held its Annual Awards Ceremony to celebrate students across the various departments housed in the college. Among these students, 3 of the top 10 seniors are either majoring or minoring in a sociological field, and 2 of the outstanding seniors are either majoring or minoring in a sociological field.



Savannah Highfill
Major in Applied Sociology
Minor in Gender and Women's Studies

OUTSTANDING SENIOR



Ashley Hallenbeck
Major in Multidisciplinary Studies
Minor in Social Justice

OUTSTANDING SENIOR

ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECT. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECTIONS
ACHIEVEMENT
SUCCEED

OSU
OFFICE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

Lucia Kezele
Double Major in Applied Sociology and Psychology

TOP 10 SENIOR

ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECT. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECTIONS
ACHIEVEMENT
SUCCEED

OSU
OFFICE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sloane Loges
Double Major in Political Science and Sociology

TOP 10 SENIOR

ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECT. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
CONNECTIONS
ACHIEVEMENT
SUCCEED

OSU
OFFICE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

Reagan Page
Double Major in Political Science and Global Studies
Double Minor in Anthropology and Russian

TOP 10 SENIOR

[READ MORE](#)

Undergraduate News – The Sociology Club

The Sociology Club has elected officers for the 2022 academic year!

President - Ryanne Edmonson

Vice President - Molly Franks

Secretary - Sydney Peach

Treasurer - Bernadette Rivera

Contact Us?

Alumni and Friends - We want to hear from you!

Please contact Debby Sweet at: Deborah.s.sweet@okstate.edu to give us updates.



Department of Sociology
Oklahoma State University
431 Social Sciences and Humanities
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

Follow us: [Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)