

Letter from the Chair: Kenneth (Andy) Andrews



We are happy to share the latest news from UNC Sociology as we wrap up the 2015-16 academic year.

We welcomed Robert (Bob) Hummer who joined the faculty as the Howard W. Odum Professor of Sociology and a fellow of the Carolina Population Center. Bob is a leading scholar in the study of health and mortality. He is working with many students and faculty already, making it hard to believe that Bob has been at UNC less than one year!

Glen Elder, the Howard W. Odum Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology, will be presented with the W.E.B. Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award from the American Sociological Association. Glen joins Peter Blau and Gerhard Lenski as UNC faculty to receive this prestigious honor. He will be presented with the award at the ASA meetings in August, and we encourage UNC friends and alumni to come to the award ceremony and reception to celebrate this major accomplishment.

UNC sociologists Barbara Entwisle, Kathleen Mullan Harris, Ronald Rindfuss, and Richard Udry will receive the 2016 Golden Goose Award for their work in the late 1980s and early 1990s to design and execute the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The Golden Goose Award honors scientists whose federally funded work has resulted in significant benefits to society.

We are also sad to share the news that Gerhard (Gerry) Lenski passed away in December, 2015. We have reprinted John Shelton Reed's remembrance of Lenski's life and career that originally appeared in *Footnotes*.

Our graduate students continued to set a high bar. Kate Tierney won a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship for her project titled "Early Life Pregnancies: Options, Outcomes, and Impacts". Holly Straut Eppsteiner won an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant for her study titled "Constrained Choices: Immigrant Mothers Negotiating Work, Family, and Legality in the New South". Holly along with Courtney Boen, Brian Foster, Jonathan Horowitz, Brian Levy, and Didem Turkoglu won highly competitive fellowships to work on their dissertations next year.

You can read more about these accomplishments and many others in the pages below. Also, we are eager to hear updates from alumni and friends of the Department. Stay in touch!

Spring 2016

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UNC Sociologists Behind Landmark Study on Adolescent Health Receive Golden Goose Award

Five researchers whose determined pursuit of knowledge about the factors that influence adolescent health led to one of the most influential longitudinal studies of human health—with far-reaching and often unanticipated impacts on society—will receive the first 2016 Golden Goose Award. The Golden Goose Award honors scientists whose federally funded work may have seemed odd or obscure when it was first conducted but has resulted in significant benefits to society.

The researchers are Barbara Entwisle, Kathleen Mullan Harris, Ronald Rindfuss, and Richard Udry and Peter Bearman who worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) in the late 1980s and early 1990s to design and execute the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, or Add Health for short. They are being cited for their extraordinary multidisciplinary, longitudinal study of the social and biological factors that influence adolescent health, and their work's wide-ranging and often unexpected impacts on society.

"This project exemplifies the best in team science," said Barbara Entwisle, vice chancellor for research and former director of the Carolina Population Center. "It reflects the diverse interests of the team that designed it, not in the sense that each has a defined part, but rather in the sense that all perspectives are fully embodied in the whole."

The social scientists' landmark, federally funded study has not only illuminated the impact of social and environmental factors on adolescent health—often in unanticipated ways—but also continues to help shape the national conversation around human health. Their work has provided unanticipated insights into how adolescent health affects wellbeing long into adulthood and has laid essential groundwork for research into the nation's obesity epidemic over the past two decades.

The award will be announced this evening at 7:00 p.m. at an event at the Long View Gallery in Washington, D.C. celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, in conjunction with a meeting of the Population Association of America.

The path breaking nationally representative Add Health study has answered many questions about adolescent behavior, with particular attention to sexual and other risky behaviors.

The study has followed its original cohort for more than 20 years, and it is now providing valuable information about the unanticipated impacts of adolescent health on overall wellbeing in adulthood. For this reason, the researchers recently changed the study's name to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, and it is a landmark example of how longitudinal research can yield ex-



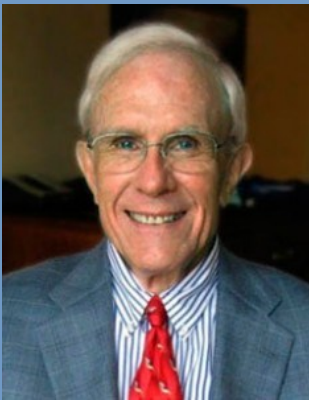
traordinary and unexpected insights.

"The 20 year, and continual, investment by the National Institutes of Health in Add Health is the reason we are successful," said Kathleen Harris, the James E. Haar Distinguished Professor of Sociology and director and principal director of Add Health. "And they are investing in basic science. They're agreeing that what we're going to learn 20 to 30 years down the road is going to matter – and it does."

By Thania Benios, Office of Communications and Public Affairs

Glen Elder to Receive 2016 W.E.B. Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

Glen H. Elder Jr., the Howard W. Odum Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been selected as the 2016 recipient of the W.E.B. Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award from the American Sociological Association (ASA). The DuBois Award is the discipline's highest recognition and "honors those ASA member scholars who have shown outstanding commitment to the profession of sociology and whose cumulative work has contributed in significant ways to the advancement of the discipline". Elder will be presented with the award at the 2016 ASA meetings this summer in Seattle.



Elder is a prominent figure in the development of life course theory, methods, and research. He studies individuals and groups of people with in-depth interviews and other measurements across different times in their life span with the objective of investigating how changing environments have influenced them.

He came to this "life course perspective" after completing graduate work in sociology and psychology at the University of North Carolina (UNC-Chapel Hill, 1961), and accepting a faculty appointment at the University of California (Berkeley).

A research affiliation with its famed Institute of Human Development introduced him to the concept of studying "people the long way." The Institute staff carried out this type of study by following birth cohorts of Californians over their lives. However, they ignored an essential element in life-course thinking, the social context and its potential explanation for why people develop and age as they do. By contrast, a life course approach locates people in relation to their social pathways, historical time and place. Over the past 40 years, life course theory has contributed to significant advances in biographical methods and research.

An early application of this thinking is expressed in Elder's book, *Children of the Great Depression* (1974/1999). Members of these two longitudinal samples were born in the early and late 1920s, grew up in Oakland and Berkeley, California during the Great Depression, and were involved at home and abroad in World War II. Elder traced the impact of Depression and wartime experiences from the early years to middle age. Most of these "children of the Great Depression" fared unusually well in their adult years, and this led to questions and research on the impact of experiences during World War II, such as marriage and access to higher education. The interdisciplinary nature of this approach prompted collaborations with historians in the 1970s and the initiation of projects with developmental psychologists in the 1980s-90s. During this period, senior scholar awards from the National Institute of Mental Health (1985-2000) and the Spencer Foundation enabled Elder to establish a life course program of longitudinal studies at the University of North

Carolina – Chapel Hill. In 2003, a new handbook on the life course symbolized the dramatic growth of life course studies as a field of inquiry across disciplines in social and biological sciences.

Changing times and lives has continued as a central theme of Elder's work into the 21st Century. During the 1980s, an economic crisis in rural America involved him in a collaborative study of children and families in the Midwest. The project is continuing today with members of four generations. The increasing concentration of poverty in American inner cities prompted another collaborative study in the 1990s, this time focused on inner city black and white youth in Philadelphia. Most recently, the growth of ethnic diversity and social inequality in American society has motivated Elder's collaboration in an ongoing national longitudinal study of health among adolescents and young adults from different ethnic groups.

He has served as Vice President of the American Sociological Association and President of both the Sociological Research Association and the Society for Research on Child Development. Elder's honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and distinguished career awards from sections of the American Sociological Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the Society for the Study of Human Development.

Elder is currently engaged in a longitudinal study of the 1900 generation, with emphasis on the 1920s, the Great Depression and World War II.

Selected Faculty Awards and Recognition

Kenneth (Andy) Andrews was elected Chair of the Collective Behavior and Social Movement sections of the ASA.

Arne Kalleberg won the Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award for his outstanding teaching in two First Year Seminars – “Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Job” and “The Pursuit of Happiness”.

Kathie Harris and **Claire Yang**’s study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* was covered in the New York Times and other major outlets. The study is the first to definitively link social relationships with concrete measures of physical well-being such as abdominal obesity, inflammation, and high blood pressure, all of which can lead to long-term health problems, including heart disease, stroke and cancer. Read more here:

<http://sociology.unc.edu/unc-chapel-hill-researchers-show-how-social-relationships-reduce-health-risk-in-each-stage-of-life/>

Charles Kurzman's research on violent extremism was covered in the New York Times and other media outlets. Along with colleagues at Duke and elsewhere, Kurzman surveyed 382 law enforcement agencies around the United States and found that more of them considered anti-government violent extremism to be a threat in their jurisdiction than Islamic extremism.

Laura Lopez-Sanders received a 2016 Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship which is administered by the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine. The fellowship provides support to work on her book on the transformation of hiring practices in new immigrant destinations and on my project on health care access and utilization for undocumented Latino immigrants.

Selected Graduate Student Awards and Recognition

Courtney Boen won a Jesse Ball DuPont Fellowship within the Royster Society of Fellows and a Summer Research Fellowship. Her dissertation is an exceptional intervention in the large and important field of health disparities. Courtney uses longitudinal data to examine the timing and accumulation of stress over the life course and broadens the scope of health measures beyond self-reported health to include biological markers of stress response.

Brian Foster held an Off Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Graduate School last fall and received a fellowship from the ASA's Minority Fellowship Program in the spring. These fellowships supported Brian's dissertation project – *Born By the River: Race, Place-making and Social Change in the Mississippi Delta* – based on fifteen months of ethnographic fieldwork and interviews.

Jonathan Horowitz won a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the Graduate School. Jonathan has collected a unique and impressive dataset: a longitudinal, multi-campus study involving both surveys and interviews with more than 100 respondents at four different time periods. The question he seeks to answer with this data is equally impressive: why does student political engagement decline after they graduate?

Brian Levy won a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the Graduate School. His dissertation contributes to an area that is central to both sociology and public policy: what effect do neighborhoods have on children? Brian leverages high-quality longitudinal survey data and with census-neighborhood information to bring new evidence to bear on fundamental questions in the area.

Kate Tierney won a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her project: "Early Life Pregnancies: Options, Outcomes, and Impacts". Using data from The National Survey of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), the central goals of Kate's project are to 1) identify the demographic and contextual factors that contribute to women's early life pregnancy outcomes (e.g., live birth, miscarriage, abortion or no early life pregnancy); and 2) to determine and compare the impact of different early life pregnancy outcomes on short-and long-term outcomes such as mental and physical health, social networks, school performance, educational attainment, risk behaviors, and income. Along with these aims, the project also includes a precursory data-quality analysis component, which is to evaluate the accuracy and quality of the data on abortions and miscarriages in the Add Health data-set.

Didem Turkoglu won an Off Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Graduate School. Didem's dissertation will examine tuition increases, their justification, and protests organized in reaction to them since the 1970s in England, Germany, Turkey, and the United States. In many liberal democracies, public higher education has experienced serious budget cuts and increased tuitions. Students have been protesting tuition hikes for decades, yet we know little about the conditions under which student mobilization makes an impact on tuition policies. The fellowship supports her fieldwork in California next fall.

Holly Straut-Eppsteiner won a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the Graduate School. Holly's dissertation is based on interviews she has been conducting with Latina immigrant mothers in North Carolina over the past year. She is using this data to examine the intersection of family structure, labor market opportunities and immigration status in an area that does not have a long history as an immigrant destination.

Wilson Award and Odum Award Winners

Howard Odum Award

Courtney Boen



The Department recognized Courtney Boen and Brian Levy as recipients of the Howard Odum Award for Excellence. The Award is given to the student(s) who has a record of creativity, productivity, and professionalism that holds exceptional promise for a career of distinction.

Brian Levy



Courtney Boen is completing an innovative dissertation on the impact of stressors on health including their accumulation and timing across the life course. She is lead author on a paper forthcoming in *Social Science and Medicine* and co-author on a paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. Courtney earned distinction on two comprehensive exams – Race and Ethnicity and Health and Illness. Next year Courtney will be completing her dissertation with the support of a Royster Fellowship.

Brian Levy's dissertation examines neighborhood disadvantage across the life course, with particular focus on educational outcomes. He also works on the links between natural disasters and social inequality including Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and he has published this work in *Sociological Spectrum*. Brian earned distinction on the Stratification comprehensive exam, and he helped establish the Health and Inequality workshop. Brian will also be completing his dissertation with the support of a Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship next year.

Everett K. Wilson Award

Holly Straut Eppsteiner



The Department recognized Jonathan Horowitz and Holly Straut Eppsteiner as recipients of the Everett K. Wilson Award for Teaching Excellence.

Jonathan Horowitz



Holly Straut-Eppsteiner has taught the Labor Force and Race, Class, and Gender multiple times to rave reviews. The latter course has a unique structure in which each undergraduate is partnered with a middle-school student, serving as mentors for them. The selection committee was impressed with how Holly treats the mentoring program. She not only has students learn about inequalities in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area; they also learn to think critically about mentoring itself, analyzing the helper-helped relationship and its power dynamics, as well as the promises and limitations of mentoring as a strategy for effecting social change.

Jonathan Horowitz has taught eight courses including four different courses including statistics, research methods, and requirements for the Management and Society major. The selection committee was impressed by the creative exercises Jonathan uses. Students described Jonathan as passionate, prepared, and the most effective and caring instructor they had at UNC.

2015-2016 PhDs

Raquel Zanatta Coutinho - The Transition to Low Fertility in Brazil

Jason Freeman - Three Studies Exploring Genetic and Social Influences on the Association Between Religiosity and Substance Use Behaviors

Karen Gerken - The Determinants and Health Consequences of Subjective Social Status

Brandon Gorman - Pious Politics: Political Theology in the Arab World and Beyond

Aseem Hasnain - Nested identities: Negotiating Muslim-ness and Shia-ness in 20th century India

Ali Kadivar - Protest Mobilization and Democratization in Comparative Perspective

Kari Kozlowski - Doing School: Learning Behavior, Classroom Interactions, and the Racial Achievement Gap

Hexuan Liu - Integration of Sociology with Genomics in Studies of Delinquency and Violence, and Social Stratification and Mobility

Jessica Perlman - Occupational Mobility, Gender and Class in the United States 1965-2015

Charles Seguin - The Politics of American Lynching, 1883-1930

Amber Wells - Inequality at Work: An Analysis of Socio-Demographic Disparities in the Careers of Library and Information Science Graduates

Undergraduate Award and Honors

Five students completed a senior honors thesis and graduated with honors in sociology. In addition, all of the students presented their research at UNC's Celebration of Undergraduate Research, the Eastern Sociological Society, or Southern Sociological Society Meetings. Congratulations!

Honors Students

Jules Carter, *It's Not Easy Being Green: Access to Sustainable Urban Infrastructure and Distributive Justice in Low-Income and Minority-Concentrated Communities*

Le (Flora) Feng, *Strangers in a Strange Land: Social Capital Formation and Educational Attainment of Adolescent Refugees*

Josh Green, *"Not in Our District": School Boards, Research Access, and Racial Inequality*

Cassius Hossfeld, *Perceptions of Attractiveness, Discrimination and Racial Bias*

Joie Lou Shakur, *Killing Spirits: How Black Churches and Families Harm Through Homophobia, Transphobia, and Heterosexism.*



In Memorium: Gerhard Lenski

1924-2015

Gerhard Lenski—"Gerry" (pronounced Gary) to his friends—died peacefully at his home in Edmonds, Washington, on December 7.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Gerry came from a scholarly family with Polish (Prussian at the time) and German roots. His father, a Lutheran pastor, held a PhD in history and his grandfather was a distinguished New Testament scholar. His family was politically liberal—in those New Deal days his father was an admirer of the socialist Norman Thomas—and he was always concerned with social justice and racial reconciliation. An only child, he was an avid reader and freely roamed the city. (A favorite family story tells of his feeding chewing gum to the monkeys at the zoo. After running away when they heard a keeper approaching, he and his accomplice snuck back on a busy weekend and found that the monkeys had been shaved.)

Gerry entered Yale in 1941 as a scholarship student, working in a dining hall, but left in 1943 to enlist in the Army Air Corps. He served as a cryptographer at a base in England, and earned the rank of sergeant. He returned to Yale on the GI Bill, changed his major from economics to sociology, received his B.A. in 1947, and entered Yale's graduate program. His dissertation, written under the guidance of A. B. Hollingshead, dealt with social class in a small textile town.

While a graduate student, Gerry married Jean Cappelmann, whose family had attended his father's church in Washington. (He and Jean would have four children, and Jean later published two volumes of her poetry.) In 1950, Gerry went to the University of Michigan, where he became a full professor in 1963. The Detroit Area Study provided the data for his first book, *The Religious Factor: A Sociological Study of the Impact of Religion on Politics, Economics, and Family Life* (1961). His experiences with large introductory

courses sparked a lifelong interest in the teaching of sociology, and his dissatisfaction with existing textbooks led him eventually to write his own.

In 1963 Gerry left Michigan for the University of North Carolina, part of an exodus that included Hubert Blalock and Amos Hawley. At Chapel Hill he published *Power and Privilege: A Theory of Social Stratification* (1966) and *Human Societies: An Introduction to Macrosociology* (1970). His three books made major contributions to three fields. *The Religious Factor* documented religion's continuing importance in American family life, politics, and economics; *Power and Privilege* offered a theory of social class and inequality, and introduced the concepts of status crystallization and status inconsistency; and *Human Societies* outlined an ecological theory of societal evolution and applied it cross-nationally.

Craig Calhoun has pointed out that, although Gerry wrote innumerable articles in professional journals, his first major book was a trade publication and the next two were textbooks. Gerry believed that sociology has important things to say, and that they should be said to as wide an audience as possible. (His works have been translated into at least a half-dozen languages.)

Gerry chaired Chapel Hill's sociology department in the late '60s and early '70s, a time of campus unrest that included an attempt to burn down the building housing the sociology department. Gerry proved adroit at dealing with unruly students and junior faculty, most of whom understood that he shared their concerns. He worked for the election of Howard Lee -- the first black mayor of a white-majority city in the South -- and was active in opposition to the Vietnam War. He also handled the press well: of a grad student conspicuous in the protests, Gerry said only that he was "a good citizen." As a chaired professor he continued to teach sections of the introductory course and to think and write

about pedagogy, but increasing deafness and Jean's serious health issues led him to stop teaching in 1986. He retired altogether in 1992.

Jean died in 1994. Two years later Gerry married Ann Blalock, an evaluation researcher and editor, widow of his friend and colleague "Tad" Blalock, and eventually he moved to her house on the shore of Puget Sound, where he enjoyed exploring the Pacific Northwest and became an enthusiastic fan of the Seahawks and Mariners. He continued to update *Human Societies* (latterly with Patrick Nolan) and in 2005 published *Ecological-Evolutionary Theory: Principles and Applications*, a comprehensive presentation of his theory, showing how it can be used to understand developments from the rise of ancient Israel to the failure of Communism in the Soviet Union. (Although he was not religiously observant, at least not after his parents' deaths, his early grounding in Protestant thought may have had something to do with his contention that "really existing socialist societies" were based on an unrealistically optimistic view of human nature.)

Gerry's many honors included a Guggenheim Fellowship, election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the presidency of the Southern Sociological Society and the vice-presidency of the ASA, and the ASA's Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award. In 2004 a special edition of *Sociological Theory*, edited by Bernice McNair Barnett, was devoted to his work. (A revised edition should soon be published.)

Gerry will be remembered as a formidable scholar. Those who knew him will also remember a wise, tolerant, and good-humored friend.

John Shelton Reed, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This article originally appeared in the January 2016 edition of Footnotes.



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UNCurrents would like to know what our alumni are up to. Please fill out the form below to let us know about your current position, exciting award, or any other news worth sharing. We will publish this information in the next issue of UNCurrents.

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