



Fall/Winter 2017

UNCurrents Newsletter

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Giving

Letter from the Chair Kenneth (Andy) Andrews

As we finish the fall semester here in Chapel Hill, we are excited to share with you updates from Hamilton Hall. We also have good news! In an effort to stay in better contact with our alumni and friends, we are moving from an annual to biannual newsletter. You'll also notice a new format as we've migrated to an email platform for the newsletter. You can still find an archive of this and past newsletters on our [department website](#). If you're on twitter, follow us [@UNCSociology](#) for ongoing updates on faculty, students, and alumni.

We've had many exciting developments over the past few months. Elizabeth Frankenberg joined us as Professor of Sociology and as Director of the Carolina Population Center where she is overseeing CPC's move into [new facilities](#). Ron Rindfuss retired this year, and we celebrated his career by launching the [Ronald R. Rindfuss Sociology Trainee in Population Science Award](#). In August, Howard Aldrich was awarded the 2017 American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award in recognition of over 35 years of teaching innovation at UNC. We also share profiles of new projects launched by UNC faculty this fall.

We are fortunate that many of you make gifts to the Department's unrestricted fund or to one of the endowed funds that benefit our students and faculty. It is no secret that the University is under significant financial pressure, and our Department depends increasingly on support from you to attract world-class faculty and graduate students. Your support plays a direct role in providing high impact opportunities for both our graduate and undergraduate students. For example, through your donations, we are able to support conference travel for all of our graduate students and undergraduate Honors students each year to present research. These opportunities are critical for our graduate students in launching their careers, and they provide undergraduates with firsthand experience of "doing sociology" that shapes their paths to graduate school. Support from alumni and friends also helps support innovation in the classroom, our colloquium series, and summer research by graduate students.

As the Chair of the Department, your support allows us to keep UNC Sociology at the leading edge of the discipline in terms of our research and teaching. I ask that you consider making a gift to UNC Sociology today! [You can find out more about different ways to make an impact here](#). I would also be more than happy to chat with you about some of the opportunities to give back to an area that is important to you.

Finally, [please send us your latest news as we are eager to hear from alumni and friends of the Department](#). If your travels bring you to Chapel Hill, I hope you will let me know and stop by to visit.

Department News

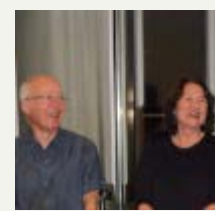
Elizabeth Frankenburg Joins UNC

Elizabeth Frankenburg joins UNC as Professor of Sociology and Director of the Carolina Population Center. She is a distinguished sociologist and demographer whose scholarship focuses on family, health, natural disasters, public policy, and well-being. [Read more](#)



CPC and Sociology Celebrate Rindfuss

On the cusp of Ron Rindfuss's retirement, the Carolina Population Center and Department of Sociology celebrated his many contributions to sociology, demography, and UNC at a recent event. The celebration also marked the launch of the [Ronald R. Rindfuss Sociology Trainee in Population Science Award](#) in honor of his research and mentoring career. [Read more](#)



Aldrich Wins 2017 ASA Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

Howard Aldrich received the ASA's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award at the 2017 Meetings in Montreal. Howard joins UNC faculty member Everett K. Wilson who won the first award in 1980. Throughout his career, Howard has been a dedicated advocate of high quality teaching. [Read more](#)



UNC and Fudan Faculty Exchange in Shanghai

To promote academic exchange and collaboration between Fudan and UNC, a delegation from UNC Sociology (Kenneth (Andy) Andrews, Arne Kalleberg, Jacqueline Hagan and Yong Cai) visited the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Fudan University in Shanghai China in early summer of 2017. [Read more](#)



New Faculty Research in Sociology

UNC faculty launched several exciting new projects this year:

Neal Caren received funding from the National Science Foundation to study media coverage of social movement and political advocacy organizations. He will collect and analyze newspaper reporting from more than a million articles in order to understand variation in the types of coverage that political organizations receive. This project, joint with scholars at the University of California, Irvine, will explore the conditions that lead some political actors to be viewed as legitimate spokespersons while others are dismissed as dangerous radicals.

With colleagues from Public Policy and Geography, Professor **Barbara Entwisle** has been awarded a major grant from the National Science Foundation Partnerships in International Research and Education (PIRE) program. The grant titled "Confronting Energy Poverty: Building an Interdisciplinary Evidence Base, Network, and Capacity for Transformative Change" is focused on the problem of energy poverty in Southern Africa.

Robert Hummer (Sociology) and Allison Aiello (Epidemiology) are the principal investigators of CPC's new NICHD-funded training program, "From Biological to Social Processes: Interdisciplinary Training in Life Course Research." Aiello and Hummer's project aims to strengthen the pre- and post-doctoral training approaches that will facilitate greater scientific understanding of the complex constellation of factors that fundamentally influence US health and well-being from birth through adulthood.

Charles Kurzman received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to work with social scientists in the Middle East. The grant supports a partnership between the Arab Council for the Social Sciences and UNC's Odum Institute for Research in Social Science to establish an Arab social-science data archive and to hold methodological workshops for scholars in the Arab region.

Claire Yang received funding from the National Institute for Health for a five-year study titled "Life Course Process of Alzheimer's Disease: Sex Difference and Biosocial Mechanisms" to understand sex disparities in cognitive decline with aging and the interplay of social and biological pathways that generate and sustain AD disparities. The research breaks new ground with an innovative life-course study design that conjoins prospective cohort data from five large-scale NIH population-based longitudinal studies that collectively cover the adult life span. Yang's research team will examine social and biological mechanisms influencing cognitive trajectories and sex differences including social stress related to socioeconomic status and social relationships, and biomarkers of cardiovascular, metabolic, neuroendocrine, and immune pathways implicated in AD.

Department Welcomes 2017-8 Graduate Student Cohort



Nafeesa Andrabi

Areas of Interest: Muslims in the US, Health and Illness, Race and Ethnicity



Andrea Goodwin

Areas of Interest: Inequality and Stratification, Race and Ethnicity, Family, Health and Illness/Medical Sociology, Gender Inequality and the Labor Force



William Holtkamp

Areas of Interest: Comparative/ Historical, Culture, Social Psychology



Ji Yeon Kim

Areas of Interest: Social Stratification, Race and Ethnicity, Education



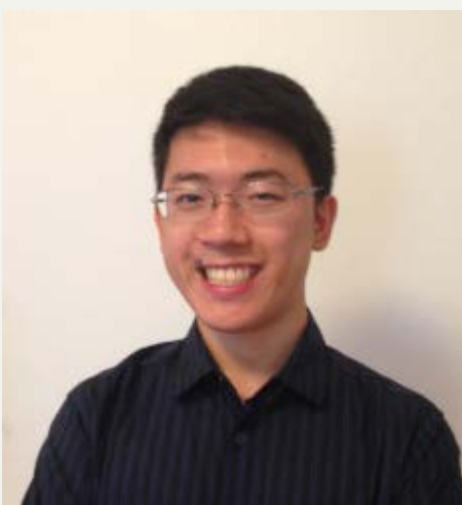
Ken Kowalski

Areas of Interest: Political Sociology, Social Movements/ Collective Action, Culture



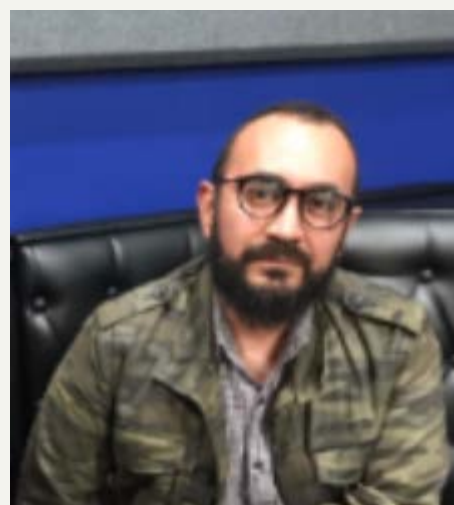
Adam Lilly

Areas of Interest: Inequality/ Stratification, Race and Quantitative Methodology



Todd Lu

Areas of Interest: Social Movements/ Collective Behavior, Political Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Mass Media, Stratification and Inequality



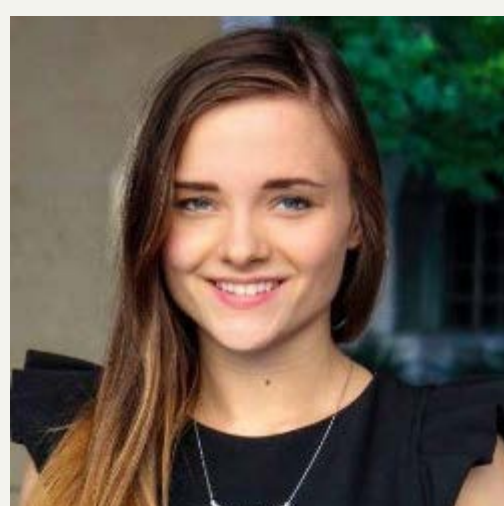
Ruy Manrique-Betanzos

Areas of Interest: Advanced Quantitative Methods, Race and Ethnicity, Stratification, Work/Occupations, and Labor Market Migration



Melissa Manzares

Areas of Interest: Internationals Migration, Work/Occupations and Labor Markets, and Human Trafficking



Abigail Newell

Areas of Interest: Gender, Medical Sociology and Immigration



Shreya Parikh

Areas of Interest: Arab Immigration in France and the US, Political Sociology



Blaque Robinson

Areas of Interest: Race and Ethnic Relations, Education, Organizations



Kaitlin Shartle

Areas of Interest: Demography, Health



Madeleine Straubel

Areas of Interest: Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Inequality and Stratification, Education, Qualitative Methods



Tinaho Zhang

Areas of Interest: International Migration, Education, Culture



Make a Gift to Sociology

Help continue the tradition of distinguished teaching, learning, and service in the Department of Sociology by making a gift to support faculty and students. We are deeply grateful to all our friends and donors for their generosity. Private gifts provide a critical margin of excellence for our students and faculty.



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Contact Us



UNC-CH Department of Sociology
The University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill CB # 3210, Hamilton Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3210

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