

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the University of New Mexico, Department of Sociology and Criminology's newsletter. We are really pleased to be able to reach out to our department community to highlight some of the many activities, accomplishments, and people that contributed to our success this past academic year.

This past year has been a busy one. We completed our Academic Program Review (APR) and the external reviewers were clearly impressed with the thriving academic community we have built and the related successes that have accrued to our undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. I look forward to building on the recommendations of the team as we continue to strengthen our department, particularly in ways that support its ongoing commitments to teaching, research, and community service.

In addition to the APR, we also conducted three faculty searches and I am excited to welcome three new Assistant Professors to the Department. George Weddington (PhD 2022, University of Pittsburgh), started this Fall as a tenure track Assistant Professor after joining us two years ago as an Inclusive Excellence Postdoctoral Fellow. Broadly, George's teaching and research are in the areas of social movements and race and ethnicity. Kayla Martensen (PhD 2024, University of Illinois, Chicago) also joined us this Fall, her critical criminology focus will expand our criminology area teaching and research portfolios. This Spring, Andrea Roman-Alfaro (PhD 2024, University of Toronto) will also be joining our criminology faculty. Like Kayla, she brings a critical lens to her teaching and research in criminology. Both will also contribute to our new Gender core research area group. You can read more about their teaching and scholarship in this newsletter.

This newsletter is opportunity to celebrate and share our many successes. Particularly the accomplishments of current students, recent graduates, and alumni in our undergraduate and PhD programs. I hope sharing this newsletter builds pride and a stronger sense of community and belonging among all of those who have ties to our department. We hope that it inspires those of you both near and far to maintain a connection to the department. Our successes speak to our strengths as a community and we appreciate the contributions that each of you, as members of this community, makes to our continued and growing success.



Dr. Lisa Broidy
Department Chair

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



WELCOME NEW FACULTY



KAYLA MARIE MARTENSEN

My research interests relate to issues around state violence, structural inequities, and transformative possibilities, focusing on the gendered and racial implications of state and social punishment. My current work broadly examines contemporary carceral reforms that exacerbate racial and gendered inequalities through therapeutic-legal interventions. My specific research explores contemporary “community-based” juvenile justice reforms, focusing on how these reforms interact with community-based service sectors to reshape juvenile justice practices. I explore how community services, often seen as diversions and alternatives to incarceration, can perpetuate carceral logic by becoming extensions of the carceral state. Using qualitative methods grounded in abolition feminist thought, I analyze the collaboration between the juvenile justice division and community-based service sector as a microcosm of the collusion between the carceral and social welfare states, revealing how these reforms contribute to what I term the “web of detainment.” This concept illustrates the entanglement of carceral and community-based systems, challenging the notion that carceral community interventions are inherently liberatory. My work critically examines current reform practices while contributing to developing practices that challenge state violence and structural inequities while focusing on transformative possibilities.



ANDREA ROMAN ALFARO

My research agenda explores how social structures shape people’s interpretations, experiences, and responses to violence. I examine violence by analyzing its horizontal dimension (how it moves across private and public spaces) and its vertical dimension (how it moves across individual, community, and societal scales). Specifically, I focus on the experiences of marginalized women. Since violence affects the structure of families and social relations, and women are central to these relations, their understandings and responses to violence provide insight into how violence occurs and is reproduced. My research is guided by three main questions: how do we make sense of violence?; how do we respond, resist, and heal from violence?; and how do class, race, and gender affect our definitions, experiences, and responses to violence? Together, these questions contribute to understanding the social dynamics and political processes that make violence possible.



GEORGE WEDDINGTON

My research interests focus on struggles for racial justice and racial domination in the United States in the 20th and 21st century. I use ethnographic and historical sociological methods to uncover processes of mobilization and counter-mobilization in Black social movements. My current research project attempts to grapple with the existential question at the core of Black movements by asking how activists and onlookers determine the racial nature of a social movement and how the racial identity of movement organizations and networks determine protest and counter-protest strategies.

DID YOU KNOW?

The UNM Department of Sociology & Criminology has a Facebook page!

Follow the department for exciting updates!



DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



FACULTY UPDATES

LISA BROIDY

In the past year I devoted the bulk of my time to activities associated with my role as Department Chair and my appointment as Co-Editor of the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency. With respect to the former, I am proud of our department's successful Academic Program Review and am VERY excited about our successful hiring outcomes, with 3 new Assistant Professors starting in the Fall. I appreciate the contributions of our departmental community in support of these celebration worthy outcomes. With respect to the latter, it has been a heavy lift, but I really enjoy the opportunity to engage with scholars from around the world to collectively reflect on and shape the direction of criminological research and scholarship.

GEORGIANN DAVIS

I spent much of the academic year revising my cultural memoir, Five Star White Trash, where I center the power and privileges of whiteness in a vulnerable and theoretical analysis of my personal history with medical abuse, familial trauma, and the criminal legal system. My first official FSWT talk was a keynote at the 2023 summer meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society. I am also, with a co-author, in the final stages of revising the 10th edition of Social Statistics for a Diverse Society (SAGE) which is targeted for publication in 2025. In August, I will assume the role of Undergraduate Director, a position I'm equally excited and nervous about.

SHARON ERICKSON NEPSTAD

I am continuing in the role of Associate Dean for Student Success in UNM's College of Arts and Sciences. During the 2023-2024 academic year, I was a Fulbright Specialist at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil, where I held workshops on academic writing and publishing with social science graduate students. I also was an invited speaker for the Peace Research Institute of Oslo's conference on nonviolence and democratization in authoritarian regimes.

RYAN GOODMAN

This academic year, I was recognized for my 20 years of professional service to the University as an undergraduate instructor, dating back to my days as a grad student TA in our department. The year was largely spent - amid the rigor of the usual heavy teaching load of a Principal Lecturer - mentoring a phenomenal cohort of our undergraduate majors (they know who they are), working with (alongside Colin Olson) an exciting group of our graduate students as they prepare to enter the classroom as instructors, and assisting with the Undergraduate Committee.

ELI WILSON

I am so excited to be publishing my newest book, Handcrafted Careers, with University of California Press. Based on four years of research with craft beer workers, the book examines the problems and privileges of forging passion-filled careers during uncertain times. This past year I was also honored with UNM's Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. I'd like to recognize my mentors, teaching assistants and brilliant former students for all they've done to help me with this lifelong pursuit.

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

JESSICA GOODKIND

During the past academic year, I focused on working with my university and community research team on our 5-year community-based participatory research study to understand and address the underlying structural inequities that led to disparate mental health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for Latinx and African refugees and immigrants, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The project builds on a long-standing collaboration with 5 community-based organizations and involves the collection of qualitative and quantitative data from 600 Latinx and African newcomers at 7 time points over 3 years. It has been an exciting year because we received a 2-year Administrative Supplement to Recognize Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Mentorship, which provides an opportunity to increase impact and expand mentorship by creating a mentorship model that 1) builds on the strengths of bilingual newcomer and children of newcomer students, staff, and community members who want to become health researchers; 2) provides support and opportunities for them to achieve these goals through team-based mentored research experiences and holistic support; and 3) advances our research through additional analyses of study data to examine research questions of importance to newcomer communities.

OWEN WHOOLEY

*This past year, I've focused on completing a full draft of my third book. Tentatively titled *Of Madness and Mess: The Crisis in Community Mental Health*, the book explores the myriad challenges and frustrations experienced by community mental health workers in Albuquerque. In doing so, the book offers a corrective analysis of the structural crisis in community mental health by adopting "mess" as an analytic metaphor to think with. As experienced by workers on the ground, there is no community mental health "system" speak of; there is only mess. Other than the book (and other spin-off projects from it), much of my year has been preoccupied with tasks related to being grad director.*

CHRISTOPHER LYONS

This has been a year of transitions for me as I've taken on a full administrative appointment in University College. University College is a unique assortment of programs that aim to support incoming undergraduates and bolster student success. I've tried to keep up on research in the midst of the administrative work, focusing on several papers with Maria Velez (UMD) on the relationship between racial social structure and immigrant justice. I am also starting a project with Masi Swanagan that examines how LGBTQ populations perceive law enforcement and support calls for police reform and defunding.

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

RICH WOOD

*I spent AY2023-24 serving as president of a small research institute, the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California. In collaboration with UNM, IACS is sponsoring a two-day convening in Albuquerque in Sept 2024 on nuclear policy in the U.S.: It will bring together: i) the intellectuals behind the official Catholic teaching in favor of verifiable, mutual nuclear disarmament; ii) the intellectuals behind current U.S. policy favoring strong nuclear deterrence and build-up; and iii) representatives from communities in NM affected by nuclear production. That's a dialogue not happening elsewhere. IACS is also sponsoring work on artificial intelligence & social ethics; the status of women in the Catholic Church; the role of aesthetics & beauty in the workplace and our lives; and the role of 'public religion' in defending and deepening democracy in the U.S. & globally. I'm writing a book titled *Bridging Social Divides: An Organizational Approach to Embracing Diversity and Promoting Equity* (under contract at Oxford); have an article coming out titled "Listening in the Américas: Practices of synodality in liberation theology and faith-based community organizing"; and am finishing articles on "Public Catholicism, the Civil Sphere, and Civic Action" and "Community Organizing and Revitalization of American Catholicism" (forthcoming in the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*). New Mexico still (always!) home, but living 2-3 weeks/month in Los Angeles.*

KIWOONG PARK

I have been working on a few projects related to opioid use disorder, exploring various dimensions such as the effects of neighborhood environments, migration patterns, and the interplay between socioeconomic status and health status. Additionally, I have conducted studies on the long-term consequences of police stops among adolescents. Utilizing nationally representative data, I have focused on assessing the impacts of these encounters on mental health and cognitive health. Furthermore, I recently enjoyed teaching the 581L graduate-level statistics course for the first time in Spring 2024. I appreciate the dedication of my students throughout the semester ;) Looking ahead, I am planning to take a research leave in Fall 2024. During this time, I intend to expand my research to include new methodologies and collaborative opportunities.

DIANA TORREZ

In addition to the Introduction to Sociology courses I teach each semester I also teach Sociology of Medical Practice and Sociology of Aging and the Aged. I have spent the past academic year updating and revising these courses. I have also begin to revise a course I taught at UNM several years ago, Sociology of New Mexico, so that I can offer the course in the Spring of 2025. I am also a faculty member of the BA/MD Combined program and teach a Social Contours of Health in New Mexico to this cohort on alternate years, as well as mentor BA/MD students. I am also looking forward to being a member of the Sociology undergraduate committee in August.

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

JACK REUBEN THOMAS

This year I taught a graduate level Social Networks course for the first time, which was a lot of fun, a big class with a very interdisciplinary mix of students. I also published a couple of articles with the UNM-H Tertulias team (Page-Reeves et al “Revealing the Power of Peer Support in the Lives of Women Immigrants from Mexico” in Human Organization and Mendivil-Aguayo et al “Zoom & WhatsApp: Digital Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Enhance Community Engaged Research with Women Immigrants from Mexico” in Journal of Community Practice).

RANITA RAY

*This academic year, I spent most my writing time revising my book *Violent Schools: Slow Death in the American Classroom* which is under Contract with Martin's Press/Macmillan. This book in-progress was shortlisted for Columbia Journalism School and Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard 's 2024 Lukas Work-in-Progress Prize. A paper I published based on this research--"School as a Hostile Institution: How Black and Immigrant Girls of Color Experience the Classroom" in *Gender & Society*--received three awards from ASA and SSSP and I delivered keynotes at the Penn Graduate School of Education's ethnography in Education Research Forum Annual Conference as well as California State University's Theory Conference drawing on the book. I wrote some public facing work from this research in *The Grade* ("Why's there so little coverage of everyday teacher racism") and published another piece titled "Race-Conscious Racism: Alibis for Racial Harm in the Classroom," in *Social Problems*.*

NANCY LÓPEZ

I've been knee deep in the archives, discovering the joys of mapping the “ontological battles” and what Charles Mills calls the “epistemology of ignorance” in the evolution of race and ethnicity categories from the 1960s to the present in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Census. I've been actively translating sociological research to nonacademic audiences, focusing on the research showing why race/visual status and ethnicity/cultural heritage measurements require different questions for interrogating inequities. It is important to underscore that separate questions are not prohibited by the March 2024 update to OMB race and ethnicity guidelines for federal agencies (see related reports, op-eds, interviews in CNN, NPR, Boston Globe, AfroLatin@ Forum, UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute, Urban Institute, Telemundo, National Academies, etc.). I also launched a five-year hub on intersectionality as inquiry and praxis for diversifying STEM in six HSIs in NM and NY. I've continued interviewing high school students about their experiences in ethnic studies classrooms in the Southwest. And finally, after 15 years of serving as the director and co-founder of the Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice, an interdisciplinary hub of research, teaching and praxis (action and reflection), I am elated and excited to announce that Dr. Shinsuke Eguchi, Professor, Communications and Journalism, will be at the helm. I am looking forward to their leadership as I begin my sabbatical Fall 2024-Spring 2025.

FAREWELL TO NOAH PAINTER-DAVIS

NOAH PAINTER-DAVIS

Our department community will miss Dr. Noah Painter-Davis as he embarks on a new professional journey as the Deputy Director of Research and Technology at The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the Pennsylvania State University.

VISITING SCHOLAR / POST DOCTORAL FELLOW UPDATE

SHARAN KAUR MEHTA

This past year, I have been working with Dr. Nancy López on an RWJF funded project examining the genealogy of racial and ethnic data collection at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from the 1960s to the present. Specifically, I have been gathering data from the National Archives in Washington D.C. and, in the coming months, will begin conducting interviews with diverse stakeholders and decision-makers. In addition, I have presented findings from my research centering the lived experiences, identities, and collective action of South Asians in Texas at conferences for the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) and Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), a public talk hosted by AAPIRC at UNM, and a guest lecture at the University of Denver.

EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATE

HOWARD WAITZKIN

Sometimes against my better judgment, I keep seeking praxis outside the retirement rocking chair. Based on the inspirational efforts of young people worldwide, I continue to focus on “Moving Beyond Capitalism — Now!”, including themes of structural racism, agroecology and ecosocialism, the solidarity economy, and post-capitalist human rights. Reflecting my clinical work in primary care medicine with refugees and immigrants, I’ve tried to do what I can about ongoing genocide. Illuminating collaborations with colleagues in Latin America lately have led to Spanish translations of recent books on international health policies under neoliberalism and social medicine and the coming transformation.

STAFF UPDATE

JORDAN GILLEY

I will be going on 3 years in the department in November. And I am continuing along with the MPP program.

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF OUR DEPARTMENT AWARDS

THE 2023-2024 SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Paper Title: "Border Disablement: How Embodied Borders Disable Latina Immigrants with Breast Cancer"

Recipient: Susana Echeverri Herrera

THE 2024 CHRISTOPHER A. MCGEE ESSAY AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

This competition is open to undergraduate Sociology and Criminology majors with a minimum of one or more semesters remaining until graduation. There are multiple paper categories with awards ranging from \$200 to up to \$500.

Recipient: Gianna McManaman won the McGee Award for Empirical Papers for her paper

"Research Proposal: The Victim-Offender Cycle." She was awarded \$400.

THE 2024 GANDY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship (up to \$350) was established in honor of Oscar B. Gandy. It is awarded to a Sociology or Criminology major, with priority given to students who are first-generation college students.

Recipient: Not awarded in 2024

NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS ARE ACCEPTED EVERY SPRING SEMESTER! KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR NOMINATION CALLS!

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DESIGNATIONS *

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NAME	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Sociology Chairmari's Fund (200133)	\$ <input type="text" value=""/>	100 %

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

EMILY AHREND

In August, I had my first official presentation on my thesis research at the SSSP conference held in Philadelphia. In October, I successfully defended my MA thesis. I am currently preparing for the comprehensive exam in medical sociology, which I will complete in September. I have been actively involved in three research teams, researching transgender mental health, the Second Chance Pell program, and the dynamics of racial formation using archival data from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and Census. Last spring I was elected to the ADA Council with the City of Albuquerque.

DREW MEDARIS

This year has largely been dedicated to gathering data for my dissertation research. Working at the crossroad of several academic disciplines, my dissertation has been focused on the political culture of white evangelicals in America, especially the role of meta-narratives as an organizing principle. To that end, I have been conducting interviews, engaging in participant-observation, and analyzing open-source data to identify prevailing themes of evangelical political consciousness. It is also a nice excuse to read fun history and philosophy books.

AIDA REVILLA

During the first year of my Ph.D. I have joined Dr. Goodkind's project as a research assistant and interpreter for the learning circles. I have completed 10 more interviews on my M.A. thesis project to work on publication. Additionally, this has been a very exciting year to get involved on campus with organizations such as the graduate student union and the Palestinian Liberation encampment!

VITTORIA TOTARO

I successfully defended my thesis, "Who We Are or What We Do? In-Situ Productions of Gentrification and Land Stewardship in a New Mexican Farmer Training Program" with many thanks to my supportive committee: Dr. Marygold Walsh-Dilley (Geography), Dr. Rich Wood, and Dr. Maricarmen Hernández (Sociology, Barnard). I have continued to serve as an RA with Dr. Soto Mas (College of Population Health), doing evaluation and research. This will be my third and final year evaluating the Career STREAM program for Air Force Research Labs at Kirtland AFB. I have been working on two papers with Dr. Vanessa Svihla (OILS and Engineering), which we hope to send out this summer.

BIANCA RUIZ-NEGRÓN

This year I successfully defended my master's thesis and am presenting it at an ASA roundtable in Montreal this summer. Throughout the year, I have been an RA for Dr. Jessica Goodkind's study, the Refugee and Immigrant Wellbeing Project, and have had the opportunity to collaborate on various manuscripts and present an in-progress manuscript at a panel at SfAA in Santa Fe. Finally, I am currently studying for my comprehensive exam in Medical Sociology in August.

ALEJANDRA LEMUS

I passed my comprehensive exams in Race and Ethnicity and Medical Sociology in the Fall. I presented a paper from my NIMH diversity supplement from Dr. Jessica Goodkind's Refugee and Immigrant Wellbeing Project at the SWS 2023 winter meeting. I also presented a paper at ASA's 2023 Annual Meeting and will present at ASA again this upcoming summer. Currently, I am working on my dissertation proposal which will be a qualitative study about the caregiving experiences of Latina immigrant women.

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES, CONT.

KODIAK LY

In addition to caretaking for my sick mother, training my service dog, and GAing for courses that have a heavy workload, I received an A+ in all of my courses. Honestly, I'm just happy that I remained healthy this semester.

JAQUELINE MARTÍNEZ

I have completed my first year of the program with some great milestones met! I joined PNMGC, attended fun workshops and was able to connect more with other students at UNM. I also successfully defended my thesis proposal this SP 24 semester. I am currently working on my research this summer and hoping to continue contributing to the UNM community.

MANETTE FISHER

My first year as a full-time graduate student presented a huge life/career change for me and it's been a meaningful experience to be studying and working at UNM. This first year helped me narrow my research interests and I'm looking forward to year two where I'll begin my master's thesis and dive deeper into the med soc area.

BRITTANY HUDDLESTON

In my first year in the program, I've started my Master's Thesis, which will examine Crisis Line perspective on why they're motivated to do this line of work. I'm excited to take Dr. Jessica Goodkind's Community-Based Participatory Research course next semester, as I wish to apply this to future research

LACEY HITES

In December 2023, I defended my dissertation proposal for a qualitative project that radically contextualizes university equity initiatives by studying the impact of advising on undergraduate students through an intersectional lens. As of May, I have collected a third of my anticipated data. I am also excited about the research projects I have become involved in under the mentorship of Dr. Nancy López and my attendance at the Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods Institute for Advanced Doctoral Students (IQRMI-ADS) at the University of Texas – Austin in June 2024.

ALEJANDRO TOVAR

I am entering my third year in the program, which in retrospect, has passed very fast. I had the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone, challenged myself academically and personally, and met significant people who have become my friends, mentors, and professors. I am working on my M.A. thesis, conducting interviews with migrant, seasonal, and temporary farmworkers or family members of such workers.



DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



MEET THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENT COHORT



LUNA MORENO

Luna (she/her) holds a B.A. in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara. She is interested in studying asexuality more broadly, and would love to eventually research the relationship between asexual identity and sexual violence.



MICHELLE JOHNSON

Michelle (she/her) holds a B.A. from the University of Minnesota Morris. Her research interests are broadly within race and ethnicity, more specifically on how ideas of whiteness shape experience and performance of latinx identity.



ATTIYA WHITE

Attiya (she/her) has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University Indianapolis (formerly IUPUI). Her research interests broadly include race and gender.



KARLA POBLANO-RODRIGUEZ

Karla (she/her/hers) holds a BA from University of New Mexico. She is interested in crime, race, and education.



JIAN MENG

Jian (he/him/his) earned his master's degree in sociology from Minzu University of China. His research interest is to use archival, interview and ethnographic methods to explore topics such as doctors and their professional practices, epidemics and social order, the production of expert knowledge, and how state politics affects individual perceptions and understandings of illness.

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS

