

SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

Volume 3

2025

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. As always, thanks to Georgiann Davis for doing the work to pull this all together and thanks to everyone who contributed.

As I start my last year as Department Chair, and reflect back on the previous four years, I want to express how much I appreciate our department community. I feel lucky to chair a department with such a dedicated office and advising staff. If you were wondering—it is the staff, not me, who keep this department running smoothly. We also have an intellectually diverse group of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and instructors with impressive research agendas and an unwavering commitment to our graduate and undergraduate students. We have a dynamic graduate student community. Our graduate students are building their own research agendas across a wide range of topics and are actively sharing their work at conferences and in peer reviewed publications. Our undergraduate students are also doing impressive work both in the classroom and in the community. The undergraduate sociology club is growing and we hope it becomes a hub for community building among our undergraduate students. In short, we are a strong department with a vibrant community and a lot to be proud of. We are the kind of department that makes the chair role rewarding and even fun.

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 TO OUR NEW POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

AMAURY J. RIJO SÁNCHEZ

My name is Amaury J. Rijo Sánchez (pronouns he/him/el and I also go by AJ) and I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology, specializing in social inequalities, transnational gender and sexualities, and Latin American Feminisms. I recently earned my Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. I chose to join the Department of Sociology and Criminology at UNM because I have followed the work of fantastic faculty here from the beginning of my graduate school journey and am enthusiastic about contributing my work and expertise to the department. On a more personal note, I love good weather, the outdoors, social and competitive Latin dancing, and cannot wait to explore these activities in the beautiful landscapes of Albuquerque, NM. I am excited to meet you all!



RED OR GREEN CHILI? OUR DEPT HAS SPOKEN!

As editor of this newsletter, Georgiann asked the department which they prefer: red or green chili. And survey says...GREEN chili! 43% of those who took the survey reported a preference for green chili, followed by Christmas style (23%). Only 13% of folks favor red chili, while 7% said no chili for me! And the rest? Well they said things like "it depends" or "to be determined." Thanks for playing along!



DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



FACULTY UPDATES

RYAN GOODMAN

The past year has been busy with (of course) plenty of undergraduate teaching, service on the Undergraduate Committee, and mentoring a cohort of promising undergraduate scholars – many of whom are now on their way to graduate programs across disciplines and across the country! I'm looking forward to my Fall 2025 sabbatical/leave semester, involving online course development for our core Sociology courses to be shared among our graduate student instructors and faculty alike. On the non-academic front: my band Black Tie is releasing its new album in May, and the debut album from my solo project (ARGIE) will be out this summer as well (if you're interested in more details on both/either...you know how to find me).

LISA BROIDY

It's been a busy year in the chair's office, but I managed to get a few publications out with my colleagues in Australia and with former graduate student Ella Siegrist. My North Campus colleague Jen Perillo and I received an Institutional Challenge grant from the William T. Grant Foundation that I am excited about. It will further our collaborative efforts to develop a community based diversion program for youth and young adults in the First Judicial District. It will also allow us to work with stakeholders at UNM to build stronger incentives and supports for community based research. I am also pleased to have been selected as an ASC Fellow, reflecting my career-long commitments to research, service, and leadership.

ANDREA ROMÁN-ALFARO

I'm proud to share my latest article, titled Making Sense of Violence Through Women's Experiences: Meaning-Making, Gendering and Racialization at Peru's Urban Margins, published in The British Journal of Criminology! In this paper, I examine how cultural frameworks—not just material conditions—shape the dynamics of violence in marginalized urban communities in Peru. The study shows that cultural processes of gendering and racialization guide interpretations of violence of community and state actors, often leading to the criminalization of women's self-defense and the normalization of systemic harm. The article bridges cultural sociology and criminological literature by shedding light on how shared cultural frameworks perpetuate inequality and why dismantling cultural logics is critical for effective violence prevention and justice reform. I hope you can read it and share your thoughts!

GEORGIANN DAVIS

I'm very excited to share that my new book Five Star White Trash is scheduled to be released by NYU Press October 2025! It is an upside-down queer response to JD Vance's Hillbilly Elegy. The 10th edition of Social Statistics for a Diverse Society, of which I co-author, was also published in Spring 2025 by SAGE. I also just wrapped up my first year as Undergraduate Director in our Department. It has been a busy year filled with lots of coffee, desserts, and more coffee!

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

JESSICA GOODKIND

This year has reinforced the importance of the Refugee & Immigrant Wellbeing Project's efforts to continue to build community and solidarity among newcomers and UNM students, staff, and faculty. In collaboration with community-based organization partners United Voices for Newcomer Rights, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, Encuentro, Centro Sávila, and New Mexico Dream Team, we brought together more than 80 newcomers from Afghanistan, Burundi, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Syria, and Venezuela and 20 UNM students to engage in mutual learning and the mobilization of community resources. Our research team that includes five Sociology graduate students and multiple other faculty, students, and community partners also published 8 papers on newcomer mental health and community-engaged research, including "Centering Latinx Immigrant Knowledge and Action to Promote Wellbeing, Liberation, and Social Justice in Community-University Research Partnerships"; "Is Cultural Appropriateness Culturally-Specific? Intersectional Insights from a Community-Based Participatory Mental Health Intervention Study Conducted with Diverse Cultural Groups"; "From Multilevel to Trans-level Interventions: Creating Sustainable Social Change to Improve Mental Health"; and "Measuring Culturally and Contextually Specific Distress among Afghan, Iraqi, and Great Lakes African Refugees". In addition, we presented our findings in English and Spanish at an international conference in Uruguay.

OWEN WHOOLEY

*For the last year, I've been working on my third book, tentatively titled *An Unruly Mess: Community Mental Health in Crisis*. The book is contracted under the University of Chicago Press with a slated publication date for the Fall 2026 catalog. I've also completed a couple articles related to this research on community mental health workers. Beyond my research, I wrapped up my final year as graduate director and am headed to sabbatical. Also, I spent WAY too much of my free time on little league baseball and softball fields.*

ELI WILSON

*Last fall, I celebrated the release of my book, *Handcrafted Careers*. The book is the culmination of four years of research on (unequal) career pathways and work identities in the craft beer industry. In April 2025, an audiobook version was also launched -- and narrated by a talented voice actor who mostly works on romance novels! I have also been enjoying my time away from the department while on sabbatical. This has allowed me to begin a new research project, which aims to offer a critical examination of the modern wellness industry based on practitioner perspectives.*

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

KAYLA MARTENSEN

*I am excited to share that I have moved to Albuquerque and am transitioning to my new home. I began my book-writing journey this year and wrote my first article, introducing concepts from the book, titled *Carceral Collusions*, which was accepted for publication. I also launched a new research project with my good friend and colleague, Dr. Vera Lopez, exploring abolitionist academic-community partnerships that seek to advance youth liberation. This year, I piloted a new course, *Social Justice in Criminology*, as a special topics offering. Additionally, I served as the Local Arrangements Chair for The Society for the Study of Social Problems in Chicago, where I had exciting opportunities to build new relationships in a familiar city.*

DIANA TORREZ

I wanted to share that I have been chosen as a Faculty Fellow in the Faculty-Student Experience Project (FSEP) in the College of Arts & Sciences which focuses on improving general education. This aligns closely with the Undergraduate Committee on which I serve.

In Spring I taught "Sociology of New Mexico", a course I had not taught in over a decade and which had not been taught by our department for at least 5 years. I enjoyed restructuring the course to include current issues. I particularly enjoyed how the students' engaged in class discussions with course materials.

RICH WOOD

*AY2024-25 saw me publish a couple of articles on the public voice of Catholicism in defense of participative democracy, and submit a co-authored book manuscript titled *Bridging Social Divides: Social Cohesion in a Polarized Society* to Oxford University Press. My Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California collaborated with UNM to host a high-level convening (September 2024) on the ethics and strategy of nuclear weapons and Catholic teaching on nuclear disarmament. IACS also collaborated with the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard for a convening in Rome (December 2024) on "Artificial Intelligence and Catholic Social Teaching," with the resulting book now under review. In May 2025 we will collaborate with multiple Bay Area universities to host an event on the public voice of Catholicism in opposing attacks on universities and on American democracy. I will be resigning from UNM effective summer 2025 in order to continue as president of IACS, but Dana and I will remain rooted full-time in Albuquerque. I have enormously valued my years at the University of New Mexico, especially working with treasured colleagues and students in the Department of Sociology and around the university.*

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

COLIN OLSON

I'm pleased to share an innovative course we offered this year, Jury Trials: A Citizen's Challenge to Power and Authority, supporting our undergraduate mission. Developed with attorney Parrish Collins and jury consultant Lela Hunt, 55 students completed the course. The course description begins:

For the average citizen, few avenues exist to be heard—let alone challenge power. The American jury system stands as the primary means for individuals to confront powerful institutions like governments and corporations. Through it, even the most marginalized can hold the powerful accountable.

One student commented “The idea that jurors actively participate in constructing the meaning of justice, sometimes even engaging in nullification when law and morality diverge, shifted my understanding of legal authority.”

ASSATA ZERAİ

I am serving as the 2025 Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting Program Chair, August 8-10, Chicago, Illinois. It is SSSP's 75th Anniversary. Awesome colleagues worked together to launch the Radical Feminist Collective; we will meet at SSSP. Join us! I will guest editor an issue of Social Sciences titled, Restorative Justice Practices within Higher Education and the Arts: Addressing Complex Legacies of Harm. We invite you to respond to our call for papers. My new book was released April 2025, titled, Black Feminist Interventions to Decolonize the Westernized University.

KIWOONG PARK

During my research leave in Fall 2024, I developed a few separate projects focusing on police encounters, opioid use disorder, and cognitive aging, drawing on data from Add Health, NSDUH, and HRS. A few of these articles have recently been published, and I'm hopeful that more R&R decisions will come this year. I also had a great time working with my 381L undergraduate students and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with graduate students in the coming year, though I anticipate a particularly full fall on the personal side.

GEORGE WEDDINGTON

I'm very excited that this past year I've received an invitation to write a brief commentary on afro-pessimism for a sociological audience. I also finished my first undergraduate instruction in the SOC 371 theory course and graduate instruction in SOC 595 race and social movements seminar.

REUBEN (JACK) THOMAS

Lacey Hites and I will be presenting a paper at ASA in Chicago this summer, "The Centralization of Racial Exogamy among Same Sex and Different Sex Couples." I've also published a couple of papers about peer support among women who immigrated from Mexico with the Tertulias team on North Campus, and recorded a podcast episode about how couples meet with UNM's "It's (Probably) Not Rocket Science." I'll be taking over from Owen this summer as Grad Program Director, and I'm looking forward to a third installment of my Games & Society class next Fall.

FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

NANCY LÓPEZ

As I begin my 25th year of service to UNM, I reflect on the joy of engaged research/teaching, including serving on over 100 PhD/MA committees. I am humbled to receive the 2025 Kathleen S. Lowney Mentoring Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. I'm elated that our Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded research will be published in the Soc. of Race & Ethnicity ("Black & Some Other Race: Examining Shifts in the Black Latino Population in the Census Bureau's 2020 Census Question.") Using National Archives from the Census/Office of Management & Budget (OMB), we offer the concept of "statistical gaslighting" (cited 2023 in the National Academies, Milwaukee Independent, etc.), as a concept that can interrogate how the civil rights use of data is minimized through the fetishization of data & dual evidentiary data systems that conflate race/visual status & ethnicity/cultural heritage (under review).

RANITA RAY

My book Slow Violence: Confronting Dark Truths in the American Classroom (Martin's Press/Macmillan, 2025) was Shortlisted for Columbia Journalism School and Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard's 2024 Lukas Work-in-Progress Prize. My paper "Race-Conscious Racism: Alibis for Racial Harm in the Classroom." Social Problems 70 (3): 682–697 received the 2025 American Sociological Association, Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. I visited the Ethnographic Café at University of California, Berkeley to converse with Randol Contreras on The Marvelous Ones as well as the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Graduate School of Education as the Featured Speaker for Ethnography in Education Research Forum Annual Conference. I also wrote in public facing outlets like the Grade about "Finding a joyful school: How to pick a school where your child won't experience the slow violence of everyday classroom racism" and "Why's there so little coverage of everyday teacher racism? The "slow violence" of everyday teacher racism rarely gets the attention it warrants.

EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATE

HOWARD WAITZKIN

"In spite of everything"/"a pesar de todo," as our Latin American colleagues and comrades refer to our sometimes brutal social context, I find that gratitude is a main experience of daily life during perpetually "semi" retirement... including gratitude for my continuing connections with some of you in sociology. Learning, teaching, researching, and sharing activism with inspiring young people to "build and fight" for post-capitalist solidarity economies based on mutual aid in New Mexico and other places account for much of the gratitude and excitement. These efforts continue to focus on "Moving Beyond Capitalism — Now!", including themes of structural racism, post-capitalist human rights, most recently, "Welfare for a Humane Future." A book with two of my mentees, Social Medicine and the Coming Transformation, seems to be reaching quite a few people; a Spanish translation already is available, and the Portuguese (Brazil) and Korean translations will appear soon. Good wishes to all!

FAREWELL TO RICH WOOD

Our department community will miss Dr. Richard L. Wood as he embarks on a new professional journey as President of Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies in Los Angeles. Thank you, Rich, for all that you've done over the years for the entire UNM community.

DID YOU KNOW?

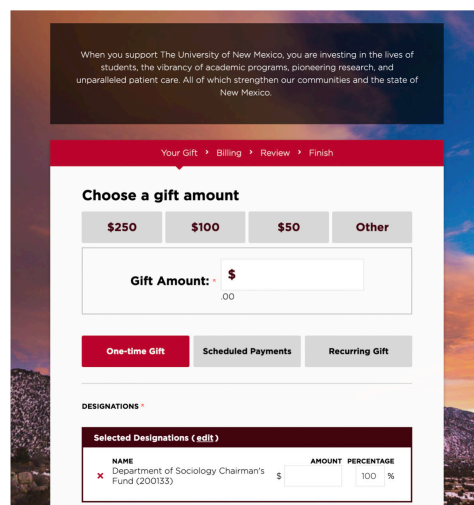
The UNM Department of Sociology & Criminology has a Facebook page!

Follow the department for exciting updates!



GIVE TO UNM SOC & CRIM

Donate today by clicking [HERE!](#)

A screenshot of a web-based donation form. At the top, a dark banner contains text about supporting the University of New Mexico. Below this is a progress bar with steps: 'Your Gift', 'Billing', 'Review', and 'Finish'. The main section is titled 'Choose a gift amount' and features four buttons: '\$250', '\$100', '\$50', and 'Other'. Below these is a text input field for 'Gift Amount' with a dollar sign and a decimal field. There are three radio buttons for 'One-time Gift' (selected), 'Scheduled Payments', and 'Recurring Gift'. A section titled 'DESIGNATIONS' shows a table with one row: 'Department of Sociology Chairman's Fund (200155)' with a dollar sign, a text input field, and a '100 %' percentage field. The background of the form is a scenic image of a mountain landscape.

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF OUR DEPARTMENT AWARDS

THE 2024-2025 SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

This award is open to sociology graduate students at all levels. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the graduate program and in good standing.

Paper Title: "Doctors by Design: State-Led Medical Professionalization in Socialist China"

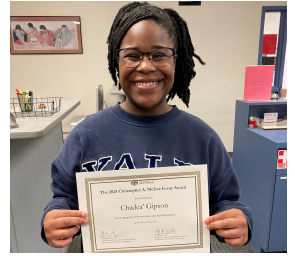
Recipient: Jian Meng



THE 2025 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: Chadea' Gipson won the McGee Award in the category of "Short Essays and Reaction Papers." Chadea' was awarded \$200.



THE 2025 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 2025

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



GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

JIAN MENG

I am very happy with the first year in the program! Professors and classmates were so welcoming to me, which greatly eased my anxiety when I first came to the United States. As a GA for Dr. Diana Torrez, I gained an initial understanding of how Introduction to Sociology and Sociology of Medical Practice are taught. Dr. Owen Whooley and MedHeads have been extremely helpful in revising my paper. As a student editor of ASA Medical Sociology Newsletter, I interviewed Dr. Larry Au about his academic journey. Besides, I am satisfied living in Albuquerque with its delicious Mexican food and warm climate.

JAQUELINE MARTINEZ

My second year within the program has been a very eventful one. Throughout the year, I was a graduate research fellow for El Puente where I mentored a group of 6 undergraduates through a research proposal. I also recieved the GPSA student research grant for my master's thesis. I look forward to the summer where I will begin working as a research assistant for Jessica Goodkind's project.

AIDA REVILLA

I had the opportunity to co-teach the Health and Social Inequalities course this year with Dr. Goodkind. It was an incredible experience and I learned a lot!

ALEJANDRO TOVAR

I am in my third year and have defended my M.A. Thesis. A reflection during my time is that I have become part of multiple communities. I thank my teachers, colleagues, friends, mentors, and mentees for providing me with a space where I have been able to grow academically, professionally, and personally. Doubting myself is a bitter feeling that will not disappear in academia, but counting on people who support, guide, and encourage me makes their sweetness a fuel to resist and persist in a violent system. I am excited and happy to enter the program's next steps, knowing there are so many outstanding people I can count on. ¡Mil gracias!

LIBBY VIGIL

This year I presented my MA research at ASC and passed my comprehensive exam in Social Movements. I'm currently working on my dissertation proposal which is a qualitative study that uses a critical feminist lens to compare social movement organizing approaches against prisons/policing to those against immigrant detention/ICE. I'm looking forward to teaching my first class (Intro to CJ) in the fall!

ALEJANDRA LEMUS

This year, I focused on writing and successfully defending my dissertation proposal. Since then, I've been working on a manuscript using my dissertation data, as well as co-authoring papers with the Refugee and Immigrant Wellbeing Project. I'm planning to present one paper from that project and another from my dissertation at ASA and SSSP this summer.

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES, CONT.

BIANCA RUIZ-NEGRÓN

During this academic year, I accomplished two notable milestones. First, I successfully defended my comprehensive exam with distinction in Medical Sociology. Second, I submitted my master's thesis for review to a special issue in the American Journal of Community Psychology on migrant justice.

Throughout the year, I was also involved in various service and leadership positions including as SGSA president and peer-mentor. Moving forward, I will present a new paper at the annual meetings for the Society for the Study of Social Problems and American Sociological Association. I also plan to finalize and defend my dissertation proposal in the Fall.

ALICIA ESQUIVEL

I completed my second year in the program and have earned all of my course credits for my masters. In February I started working with the New Mexico Cheese Guild and am collecting ethnographic and interview data to better understand food systems in the region. I am proud to serve on UGW's bargaining committee as we continue to bargain our new contract this summer. In the fall I hope to defend my thesis proposal.

ATTIYA WHITE

My first year at UNM has come and gone and I am so glad to have made the move to Albuquerque to continue my education. As a GA for both Ranita and Georgiann, I feel that I have gained the experience to keep moving on in this program. As an RA for Nancy, I've been given opportunities to expand my scholarship through co-authorships and travel opportunities! I look forward to completing the next phase of this program as I work with Ranita to complete my Master's Thesis!

VITTORIA TOTARO

I passed my comprehensive exams in Race and Ethnicity in September 2024, whew! Since then, I've been working on my dissertation proposal, which looks at how small scale, regenerative farmers in New Mexico persevere despite the many challenges they face. I also finished my second yearlong evaluation of a local farmer training program. This spring, I've been collecting and analyzing data for a study on farmers and mental health, part of the Pilot Projects Research Training Program at the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. I'll be sharing some early findings at their symposium in June. Oh, and I'm also expecting another baby later this summer!

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES, CONT.

JENNA DOLE

I graduated! A paper I was working on while at UNM was also recently accepted by Housing, Care and Support. Currently, I am working at RTI International on quantitative and qualitative projects focused on the criminal legal system and hoping to spend the free time I now have on some new hobbies.

MANETTE FISHER

I made progress in determining a path forward for my thesis which will be a qualitative study. I plan to interview gun violence survivors about their experiences with a social movement organization. Research will focus on grief's influence within politics and potential perceived healing for survivors who join a movement organization.

MASERATI SWANAGAN

This year, I passed my comprehensive exam in Race and Ethnicity with distinction, which included choosing Education and Criminology as my areas of specialization. In addition to completing my Comprehensive Exam I began work on my dissertation proposal, which is a qualitative study of professionals who work with survivors of abuse and/or violence. In AY 2025-2026 I plan to present one of my single author papers at the ASA National Conference being held in Chicago as well as continue to work on my dissertation.



DEPARTMENT CONVOCATION



DEPARTMENT CONVOCATION



MEET THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENT COHORT



YIXIN ZHANG

Yixin (she/her) holds a MPhil in Sociology from Minzu University of China, 2025. She is interested in medical sociology, with a focus on how gender shapes illness experience, caregiving, and structural inequalities in healthcare systems.



RACHEL JOHNSTON

Rachel (she/her) holds a BA in Anthropology and Sociology from UNM, in addition to two associate degrees from CNM. She is interested in gendered and racialized process that occurs in the creation of local knowledge within news media.



KIMA SIBAYAN

Kima (she/her) holds a BA in interdisciplinary social sciences, with concentrations in global government and sociology, from the university of south Florida. centers on social determinants of health, mental health disparities with racial minorities, and the compounding impact of poverty, racism, and sexism on health outcomes. The focal point of her research is on the Black experience in America, and global white supremacy as it pertains to health.



MADISON GONYA

Madison (she/her) holds a BA in Political Science and Criminology (UNM) and a Master of Health Administration (MHA) from UNM as well. Her interests surround medical and political sociology. More specifically, she is interested in how the social construction of illness, particularly as it applies to reproductive and obstetrical care (chronic pain, abortion, maternal and fetal care) interact with innately politicized systems and provisions of care.



NOELIA MANN

Noelia (she/her) earned a BEA from NYU and MSW from the Columbia School of Social Work. She is interested in white women's role in upholding white supremacy.

CONGRATS TO OUR FACULTY WHO RECEIVED AWARDS FROM NATIONAL SOCIOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS!

