



community&environmental  
SOCIOLOGY  
NEWSLETTER

*College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*

*University of Wisconsin - Madison*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is has been a few years since you have heard from us. We hope to communicate with you more often in the future. Once again, it has been a challenging year at UW-Madison due to budget cuts and changes in faculty governance and tenure. Although the conditions in public universities across the United States are changing, our faculty continues to believe that programs like ours are essential to the land grant mission and the Wisconsin Idea.

Our undergraduate program continues to grow and develop. We have approximately 80 majors each year. We offer our majors high-impact experiences that characterize the Wisconsin Experience, from rich capstone courses to study-abroad experiences; many also earn certificates or double majors. Over the past year, we have been much more active in identifying internship opportunities for students through local organizations and institutions.

This year, we completed a review of our joint graduate program with Sociology. As you know, the Department operates a cross-college, combined graduate program with the Department of Sociology in L & S (and has ever since both departments were established in 1930). Consistently occupying one of the top spot in national rankings of the discipline of Sociology, this joint program continues to stand as one of Community and Environmental Sociology's major achievements—along with Sociology, to be sure. Such excellent graduate training requires on-going effort and planning, which is repaid by the truly outstanding students who populate the program. We continue to place our students in top universities. This past year Community and Environmental Sociology placed our graduate students at Cornell, UC-Santa Cruz, Penn State University, Occidental College, and New York University. The two departments enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship that we value highly and must continue to work to maintain.

We hope to stay in contact with all our alumni. Please send me a note and let us know about any news.

--Gary Green

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## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

**Mike Bell** has published the 5th edition of *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology* (with Loka Ashwood) and *An Invitation to Qualitative Fieldwork* (with Jason Orne). Mike also received an award for the best paper published in *Rural Sociology*: "Linked and Situated: Grounded Knowledge," with Loka Ashwood, Noelle Harden, and William Bland.

**Jane Collins** received the 2015 Hilldale Award for the social sciences, which is given to faculty based on their contributions to research, teaching and service. This award is considered one of the most prestigious given at UW-Madison.

**Gary Green** published the fourth edition of *Asset Building and Community Development* (with Anna Haines).

**Daniel Kleinman's** new book, with Sainath Suryanarayan, called *Vanishing Bees: Science, Politics, and Honey Bee Health*, is coming out with Rutgers University Press. Last May, Daniel Kleinman was in Beijing to participate in the "Peking University-University of Wisconsin Workshop in Higher Education," which he helped organize. In the fall of 2014, Daniel Kleinman was appointed the inaugural editor of *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*, the open access journal of the Society for the Social Studies of Science. Embracing the widespread changes occurring in higher education and scholarly publishing, the peer review journal sees itself as a place for experimentation in varieties of article types and ways of representing data. Among the journal's editorial board are two UW-Madison Sociology PhDs, Scott Frickel and Abby Kinchy, and a paper by Chelsea Schelly, a recent UW-Madison Sociology PhD, was on of the journal's earliest articles. Daniel continues to serve as Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

**Randy Stocker** has two new books in press: *Liberating Service Learning and the Rest of Higher Education Civic Engagement* (Temple University Press) and *The Landscape of Rural Service Learning, and What It Can Teach Us All* (Michigan State University Press). Randy is also engaged in an interesting statewide project trying to identify communities that are best at attracting and retaining young adults.

**Sainath Suryanarayanan** published two book chapters this year: "Ignorance and Industry: Agrichemicals and Honey Bee Deaths," (with Daniel Kleinman) in *Routledge International Handbook of Ignorance Studies*; and "Pesticides and Pollinators: A Context-Sensitive Policy Approach," in *Bee Health at the Intersection of Society and Society*.

## NEW FACULTY--JOSH GAROON



Our newest faculty member is Josh Garoon. Josh received his Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. His dissertation research focused on community-based natural resource management and health in rural northern Zambia. He is teaching courses on public health in rural and urban communities and sociology of international development, environment and sustainability. His current research focuses on the intersection of health, development, and the environment at the local level.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Yifei Li** ranked first in the 2015 China Times Young Scholar Award competition, and was awarded the Yu Chi Chung Scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 to support his dissertation research on China's environmental governance. Yifei has accepted a tenure-track position at the Shanghai campus of New York University.

**Kate Anderson** was awarded the UW campus wide "Innovation in Teaching" Award this year. She also received a CIAS mini-grant, a grant from WISCER (Wisconsin Collective for Ethnographic Research), and a Nelson Institute research travel grant, all for fieldwork for her dissertation.

**Annabel Ipsen** published an article, "Manufacturing a Natural Advantage," in *Environmental Sociology*.

**Amanda McMillan Leqieu** received a Baldwin Grant from UW-Madison for her research on mining in Wisconsin.

## **APPLIED POPULATION LABORATORY**

It has been an eventful year for the Applied Population Laboratory. Over the stretch of seven months we welcomed two new colleagues, Caitlin McKown and Malia Jones. Caitlin started with us as a GIS Certificate intern and then became part of our staff last year. Her work centers on using GIS and data visualizations to explore topics related to health geography and health care. Malia Jones joined the APL team last summer and is a social epidemiologist working to examine the social and spatial determinants of health and develop place-based approaches to exploring social forces that contribute to differential health outcomes among disadvantaged populations. We are very pleased to have both Caitlin and Malia at the APL to help expand our growing program in the domain of health and geography.

Much of our outreach and Extension work continues to focus on analyzing and translating data from the American Community Survey and other state and federal sources. We have taken a look at how Wisconsin's population is changing and the social or economic trends that are affecting Wisconsin communities. Over the last year, we have paid particular attention to the growing diversity in rural communities, the age "wave" in Wisconsin, challenges faced by rural school districts, and the persistence of poverty in some Wisconsin counties. We have used data visualizations, infographics, briefs, press releases, and numerous presentations to state and local organizations to package up the information and make it available to a wide range of audiences. Our efforts to "democratize" data have also led to a suite of interactive tools for exploring, visualizing and analyzing data of the Wisconsin Food Security Project (<http://foodsecurity.wisc.edu/>). The Wisconsin Food Security Project consolidates an array of community-level information on demographic, socio-economic, health, and food security conditions and presents it alongside data about the food infrastructure. The goal of the project is to provide local information which helps planners and policymakers identify strengths and gaps in their communities, and helps service providers and individuals and families to locate food-related resources. We are also hoping to release a revamped version of our all-in-one data portal called GetFacts (<http://www.getfacts.wisc.edu>) in the next several months.

On the research front, APL staff have been building a body of work on the geographic aspects of health and health-care and the APL has become a campus leader in Health and GIS research. We have developed innovative population-based approaches that attempt to answer the questions "Where?" and "Why there?" for chronic conditions, disease, and other public health concerns. The approaches help support research efforts from around the health and medical world both on and off

campus and often provide tools which help both researchers and practitioners alike to explore data, frame public health outreach, and set priorities and policy. APL staff have also pioneered methods blending applied demography, geography, and public health to make projections of health, chronic conditions, and disease for small geographic areas. Recently, we developed a set of health projections for the State of New Hampshire which have been widely used to target services, allocate resources, and to point the direction for future public health policy and funding for the state. The results of the project can be viewed here: <http://www.mapnhhealth.org/health-map>. For information about other outreach and research programs of the Applied Population Laboratory, we invite you to visit us at <http://www.apl.wisc.edu>.

## **RETIREMENTS**

Two of our long-term faculty, **Jess Gilbert** and **Jack Kloppenburg**, retired in 2015. Jess and Jack played critical roles in building our program on the Sociology of Agriculture over the past 30 years. Jess recently completed his book on New Deal agriculture programs (*Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal*), which was recently published by Yale University Press. He is currently living in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jack taught courses on food systems and a large introductory course in environmental studies for several years. In the last few years, Jack has become active in the Open Source Seed Initiative and he also served as the director for the Greenhouse, a residential learning community on campus for students interested in sustainability issues. We will sorely miss both of their contributions to the Department, but we wish them well!

## **HALLER DISTINGUISHED LECTURE (2016)**

**Sara Bowen** delivered the 2016 Haller Distinguished Lecture in April. Sara Bowen is an Associate Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State University. She is the author of *Divided Spirits: Tequila, Mezcal, and the Politics of Production* (University of California Press, 2015). Professor Bowen received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008. Her work focuses on food systems, local and global institutions, and inequality in the United States, Mexico, and France.

## **SLESINGER LECTURE (2016)**

**Celeste Watkins-Hayes** delivered the 2016 Slesinger Lecture on March 8. Celeste Watkins-Hayes is an Associate Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University. The title of her talk was "Remaking a Life, Reversing an Epidemic: HIV/AIDS & the Politics of Transformation."

## ALUMNI NEWS

**John Zinda** has a post-doctoral fellowship at Brown University and will be starting a tenure-track position at Cornell University this Fall.

**Jason Orne** will be starting a tenure-track job at Drexel in the Fall.

**John Liu** is currently on a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard and will start a tenure-track job at Occidental College.

**Loka Ashwood** is an assistant professor at Auburn University.

**Gina Spitz** has a post-doctoral fellowship in urban sociology at Loyola University.

**Rob Chiles** has started his new position as assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University.

**Madeleine Fairbairn** is now an assistant professor at the University of California-Santa Cruz.

## SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department sincerely appreciates your interest in contributing to its future. We invite you to help us achieve our goals and share in our continued successes by making a specific financial contribution to any of the following department funds through the University of Wisconsin – Foundation. Contributions may be made online or by printing, filling out and mailing a pdf form:

[http://www.supportuw.org/wp-content/uploads/uwf\\_printable\\_form.pdf](http://www.supportuw.org/wp-content/uploads/uwf_printable_form.pdf).

### **Community and Environmental Sociology Department Fund**

**Purpose:** Unrestricted support for the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. Gifts to this fund are used at the discretion of the Chair and are directed to where the need is greatest.

### **Frederick H. Buttel Fund**

**Purpose:** Fund supports the recruitment and retention of outstanding scholars through a named Professorship, to be known as the Buttel-Sewell Professorship.

### **Evelyn T. Crowe Scholarship Fund**

**Purpose:** Fund provides financial awards to Community and Environmental Sociology students in the areas of: Participation in professional meetings; Pre-dissertation research; Undergraduate research; Outstanding academic achievement by a senior.

### **Archibald O. Haller Lecture Fund**

**Purpose:** Fund supports the Haller Distinguished Lectureship Series.

### **A. Eugene Havens Memorial Fund**

**Purpose:** Fund provides scholarship awards to Community and Environmental Sociology, Sociology, and Development Studies graduate students from developing countries.

### **Doris P. Slesinger Lecture Fund**

**Purpose:** Fund supports Slesinger Distinguished Lectureship Series.

## **ALUMNI UPDATE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employers: \_\_\_\_\_

News to share: \_\_\_\_\_

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