



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**We are re-sending the newsletter! Please read this one, as there was an editing mistake in one of the articles. Our apologies.**

## **Newsletter Spring/Summer 2020**



### **Chair's Greeting**

**What times we live in, and what a time to try to understand, be, and act. The coronavirus pandemic has both exposed and exacerbated the social issues we study and teach every day: social determinants of health, crowding in prisons, labor market inequalities, dying and bereavement, parenting, environmental racism. The international demands for racial and social justice and for an end to anti-black violence have both galvanized responses and pointed to ongoing systemic failures. These are not just 'social issues' to study or teach, of course.**



**I invite you to read the mix of updates, news, and celebrations in this spring 2020 newsletter, including interviews with two leaders in the life and history of the department: retiring University Cup Professor Harvey Krahn, and UAlberta Chancellor-elect Peggy Garritty (MA '75). We conclude with a tribute to the life of**

They are lived realities for each of us, albeit in profoundly different and unequal ways.

Finding our way through this period involves navigating the relationship between professional research and teaching activities and the everyday difficult stuff of social life. I am impressed and moved by the participation and leadership of colleagues and students in response to the killing of George Floyd...by the spirit of empathy and collaboration shown by instructors in our department as they respond to the sudden move to remote teaching and learning...by the smooth and expert work of the department staff...by the work of the newly elected leadership of the Sociology Graduate Student Association to nurture inclusive online community. So much is being done, and there is so much more to do.

Professor Emeritus James Hackler, who died on April 13 at the age of 90.

*Thank you to all who contributed to producing the newsletter: Matt Arkinstall, Ken Caine, Sara Dorow, Les Hayduk, Sadaf Mirzahi, Rob Shields, Cris Whalen, and Kyle Willmott.*

*~ Sara Dorow*

## **Message from SGSA President Manzah Yankey**



We intend to organize events that benefit our graduate students such as: speaker series, annual student conferences,

I would like to thank all students who participated in the 2020-2021 election. It is a pleasure to see the Sociology Graduate Students Association (SGSA) come back to life. I'm greatly honoured to be working with dynamic and dedicated graduate students on the SGSA Executive team:

**Department Liaison:** Emily Gerbrandt;  
**Treasurer:** Jillian Bevan;  
**Events Coordinator:** Samantha Cima; and  
**GSA Councillor:** Prof-Collins Ifeonu. The Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA) is a student group that represents the graduate student body of our department.

Our association fosters an inclusive student community that promotes diversity, equity and advocacy.

proseminars, social gatherings, etc.

The goals of the SGSA will be:

- i.**to represent its members
- ii.**to develop, design, and organize programs that promote the interest of members
- iii.**to liaise with Graduate Students' Association and other student bodies
- iv.**to provide leadership and focus to group members
- v.**to provide recreation and fellowship to group members
- vi.**to provide a meeting place for the consideration and discussion of questions affecting the interests of members
- vii.**to disseminate information
- viii.**to provide a peer support group for members
- ix.**to promote and protect the interest of the membership.

The SGSA and the Sociology Graduate Office are always available to assist in any way that we can, including and especially in these times of COVID-19.

Regards,  
Manzah Yankey

**Send Us Your Updates!**

We would like to share quick updates from department alumni, professors emeriti, and former staff in the newsletter. Please send a blurb and a photo to [Cris Whalen](#) any time.



## Congress 2021



[UAlberta Sociology](#) looks forward to welcoming people from across Canada for Congress 2021! It is highly unfortunate that Congress had to be cancelled this year, but we hope to make up some of this lost time and energy at next year's gathering here in Edmonton. Thanks to [Dr. Holly Campeau](#), who has agreed to serve as Local Area Coordinator for the 2021 meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association.

## Congratulations to Our Faculty Award Winners



[Tope Oriola](#) – Faculty of Arts Kathleen W. Klawe Prize for Excellence in Teaching of Large Classes

**Robyn Lee** – Faculty of  
Arts Research  
Excellence Award (Asst  
Prof)

**Ken Caine** – FGSR  
Great Supervisor Award

## "A University is a Place that Belongs to Everyone"

*Introducing Chancellor-Elect and Sociology  
Alum Peggy Garritty*



*~a joint interview with Sara Dorow (Chair) and Matt  
Arkinstall (MA Student)*

*Q: You received your MA  
in Sociology from our  
Department in 1975.  
Could you talk about  
some key lessons or  
skills gained during your  
Master's degree, and  
how they might have  
helped prepare you for  
your upcoming position  
as Chancellor at the  
University of Alberta?*

It was a different time, a  
wonderful time, when  
there was an emphasis  
on taking education just

The university, and a  
focus on the research  
done there, allows a  
springboard for  
identifying problems and  
solutions, especially for  
complex, ongoing issues.  
And ultimately, it's the  
pursuit of knowledge that  
makes us human.

*Q: You champion  
university-community  
relations. Why is this  
important to you, and  
maybe especially now, in  
times of both budget*

for the sake of learning. Looking back, that was a luxury. And so I was just able to study what I found interesting in areas like sociology and philosophy. I learned about not jumping to conclusions, looking at alternative points of view, and applying concepts to different situations. These are the skills that have served me the most, and that I think are important to the chancellor role. The world isn't black and white.

I never would have anticipated being the chancellor of the university, if I ever had a game plan for my life. And that willingness to be very open to things is something that universities teach. When I finished my degree the chair of the department at the time suggested an internship with the provincial government, and I ended up staying in government for fifteen years doing policy work both in education and advanced education. So that was my first leap into the unknown, and it started with an internship.

*Q: So following on that, what do you wish the Alberta public knew, or understood, about the role of the social sciences and arts at the University?*

*constraint and COVID-19?*

The university is a special place, but it needs to get better at understanding and listening to multiple communities and voices. In times of great challenge, those connections become all the more important. You know, I think the university is so well respected, but people just don't honestly know exactly what they respect about it. I don't think they know enough about how significant it is to the future of the province.

The silence after the first round of budget cuts was one trigger for me applying for this role. I was waiting for the loud advocates to stand up and say something. Why didn't we hear from them? We need to get louder, so people understand the value of the university. And one can be loud in very positive ways!

So overall, I am both very attracted to the challenges of these times and overwhelmed by them. Over the next little while I'll keep listening to lots of people--in the community, faculty, administration, and students. It's so important to listen to students!

It is so important to develop a person rather than just teach content. Because content is everywhere, and it's relatively easy to learn and regurgitate. But the ability to analyze and apply that content to different situations and problems is in short supply. Those are the kinds of complex skills employers are actually looking for.

That pursuit of greater knowledge and understanding to unlock some of the world's biggest problems is where fields like sociology come in.

*Q: When you set up your University Senate office, what is one object you know you will put in it, and why? And when you complete your term as Chancellor, what do you hope to leave behind, at least figuratively?*

The university has quite an astounding art collection, so I'd love to hang a painting. I love art. Maybe also a couple of my go-to books.

As for what I hope to leave behind? I hope it's a deeper feeling of connection between universities and communities. A big university is a place that belongs to everyone. That sounds so big, but I think it has to be the aspiration.

## Teaching Profile: Dr. Jana Grekul

As Director of the BA Criminology program, **Jana Grekul** is an enthusiastic fan of experiential learning because it can bring to life classroom material and help students develop attributes and skills that they can use throughout their degree and in their careers. In the BA Criminology program, the field placement stream provides students with work experience that can



As a result, in the Women and Crime course this past fall, she used a project-based learning approach and included a space and place for community partners to be involved in the process. Students created (amazing!)

augment their classroom learning. Jana tries to incorporate experiential learning opportunities in the courses she teaches.

Over the years, Jana has integrated Community Service-Learning in her classes; more recently she experimented with project-based learning in the Sociology of Punishment class. In groups, students created projects that explored the impact of “get tough” legislation on various groups involved in the criminal justice system. Over three sections of the class, Jana noticed that projects tended to morph from being more about information sharing, to projects that could be “actionable” in the community.

projects that have the potential to be implemented in the community and positively influence women who are victimized and criminalized.

For a little more on Jana, [click the link!](#)

## Public Scholarship Profile: Dr. Shirley Anne Tate



As a race and education scholar, **Professor Shirley Tate** (CRC-elect

She also dispels the myth that unconscious bias causes inequality, arguing that neither bias nor racism are unconscious since we have a choice to discuss our ‘unconscious bias’ and name it. Shirley also brings these discussions to workshops about building an anti-racist classroom.



in Feminism and Intersectionality) is passionate about research and teaching that address race, gender, and decolonization. Shirley is a qualitative researcher whose interests can be broadly located as Black feminist decolonial diaspora studies. She applies an intersectional perspective to her research in the areas of institutional racism, black identity, race performativity, and beauty and black anti-racist aesthetics. Her academic leadership on topics of intersectional institutional racism, decolonization, and antiracism in universities has spanned more than a decade and made her a world-leading researcher in the areas of institutional racism and black identity.

Shirley regularly shares her knowledge and expertise through public addresses and workshops both locally and across the globe. In her [TEDx Talk](#), Shirley addresses the small number of black academics in universities and the black student attainment gap as a result of institutional racism and microaggressions.

## Actively Engaged - Recent Talks

### The Black attainment gap: Inequality, exclusion and injustice.

The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre Distinguished Speaker Series, DeMontfort University, UK, November 2019.

Race/Body Panel presentation and discussion for the UAlberta Dept of Sociology Keywords series, November 2019.

### If you were a white man, they would have negotiated with you the minute you were approached: Bodies of value in academic life.

The Keynote address to the Research at the Intersections of Gender, University of Alberta, December 2019.

**Barriers to Diversity in our academic institutions: The case of institutional racism.** Public lecture 'On "brick walls", "ghosts" and other feminist dilemmas: Anger, psychic institutional pain and silencing in academia', followed by a panel discussion. The Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, February

## Interview with Dr. Harvey Krahn

*~Interviewed by Dr. Les Hayduk*



In July 2020, University Cup Professor Harvey Krahn will retire after 37 years as faculty member in the department. A retirement event later in the summer will celebrate his many accomplishments and contributions.

*Q: You experienced our department as a grad student, as a professor progressing through the ranks, and as chair for 8.5 years. What are some impressions you have formed from seeing our department from these various perspectives?*

Our department's theoretical and methodological orientation has become substantially more diverse over the past several decades. Undergraduates and graduate students today have a wider range of theoretical and methodological perspectives with which they can engage. What remains is the tension between the typical desire to become an insider within one theoretical or methodological camp and the opportunity to critically engage with different perspectives.

*Q: If you could talk to some long-gone professor or student colleague, who would it be and what would you want to talk to them about?*

Gordon Hirabayashi retired several years after I joined the department as an Assistant Professor. I regret not talking more to him about his fight with the American government for his constitutional rights during WWII, and also about his experiences as department Chair during the 1960s when the department was growing rapidly.

*Q: Do you have any regrets about the department?*

Yes, the loss of the Population Research Laboratory which was closed several years ago. I felt this was a bad decision by the Faculty of Arts, since the PRL was an important research resource for department members, provided useful training for students, and connected the department to the broader community.

*Q: If you had it to do over again, what would you NOT change?*

I would continue to encourage theoretical and methodological diversity and to promote collegiality among those in different camps. With a few exceptions, there has been a high level of collegiality in the department, which has made it a great place to work.

## **Graduate Student Profiles: Manzah Yankey and Juan Guevara**



**Manzah Yankey**  
**MA Student**

Manzah Yankey was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in criminology. Entering her second year as an MA student, Manzah's main research interests include policing, the inner city, and community safety. Her thesis focuses on providing an intersectional feminist analysis of police culture



**Juan Guevara**  
**PhD Student**

Juan Guevara is a political scientist from Colombia. His research interests intersect social marginalization, urban studies and the reproduction of the State. His master's thesis explored the different forms in which people with disabilities navigate and culturally transform the built environment and stigma in informal settlements. Before starting his PhD, Juan

by examining the unique experiences and challenges faced by female police officers in Edmonton. Manzah is currently co-authoring a journal article with Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik and Dr. Carolyn Greene on the gendered experiences of invasive policing in Toronto's inner-city communities. Manzah enjoys volunteering with organizations that promote equity, diversity and inclusion, and organizations that help improve the lives of individuals and families living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Manzah is currently the president for the newly revived Sociology Graduate Students' Association. During her free time, Manzah likes going to the gym, reading books, and hanging out with friends.

worked for the Colombian government in a reparation for victims of armed conflict. Due to this work experience, Juan problematizes the role of narratives that reconstruct the memory and reparation process. For him, these processes operate as devices to capture communitarian and alternative processes that oppose official/state forms of memory, mourning and reparation. Juan is also a member of the AgeWell network that promotes research in technology and aging, and has worked in a couple of research projects in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at UofA. In his doctoral program, Juan is exploring urban informality from a socio-material perspective to discuss the interrelated and co-constitutional process of formal (State) and informal. His project also aims to highlight the alternative aspects of informality when studying and producing global south cities.

## ***Nature and the Social – Speaker Series***

The Winter 2020 Sociology Speaker Series tackled the many ways that social science and the humanities explore, understand, challenge and practice

the complex notion of 'nature'. While the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic shortened the speaker series to two presenters, these were stimulating interdisciplinary events. Andrew Feenberg (Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Technology, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University) kicked off the series in January with "Technoscience: Nature enters history," a talk that drew on his book *Technosystem: The Social Life of Reason*. Dr. Feenberg and PhD student Charles Stubblefield hosted a follow-up graduate student discussion.

And then in February, Rauna Kuokkanen (Research Professor, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland) presented on "Self-determination, the norm of integrity and gender: Implications for Indigenous governance" based on her 2019 book *Restructuring Relations: Indigenous Self-Determination, Governance and Gender*. Along with a graduate seminar in Indigenous Research co-hosted with the Faculty of Native Studies, the talk was part of Dr. Kuokkanen's weeklong stay as Cameron Visiting Scholar in Northern and



Thanks to UAlberta North and the Indigenous Programming and Research program of the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for co-sponsoring. Both events were at full capacity.

The Department looks forward to continuing the Speaker Series in 2020-21. Stay tuned for virtual events in the fall!

## **A Selection of Recent Articles by Sociology Faculty Members**

**Maroto, Michelle** and Severson,  
Meryn\* (2019) **“Owning, renting, or living with  
parents? Changing housing situations among  
Canadian young adults, 2001 to 2011”** *Housing Studies*

Tetrault, Justin\*, **Bucerius, Sandra**, and **Haggerty, Kevin**  
(2019) **“Multiculturalism under confinement: Prisoner  
race relations inside western Canadian  
prisons”** *Sociology*.

Masferrer, C., Hamilton, E.R., and  
**Denier, Nicole** (2019) **“Immigrants in their parental  
homeland: Half a million U.S.-born minors settle  
throughout Mexico”** *Demography*

**Urbanik, Marta-Marika** and Roks, R.A.  
(2020). **“GangstaLife: Fusing urban ethnography with  
netnography in gang studies”** *Qualitative Sociology*

**Kent, Stephen** and Lindquist,  
Kelsey\* (2019) **“Contextualizing debates about  
brainwashing within the discipline of  
sociology”** *International Journal of Cultic Studies*

Alam, B., **Kaler, Amy**, and Mumtaz, Z. (2020) **“Women’s  
voices and medical abortions: A review of the  
literature”** *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
and Reproductive Biology*

Braun, Jennifer\*, Beckie, M., and **Caine, Ken**  
(2019) **“Trust us, we feed this to our kids’: women  
and public trust in the Canadian agri-food  
system”** *Agriculture and Human Values*

**Hughes, Karen D.** and Jennings, J.E. (2020) **“A legacy  
of attention to embeddedness in gendered  
institutions”** *International Journal of Gender and  
Entrepreneurship*

Willmott, Kyle (2019) **“From self-government to  
government of the self: Fiscal subjectivity,  
Indigenous governance and the politics  
of transparency”** *Critical Social Policy*

## ***In Memoriam: Professor Emeritus James C. Hackler (1930 – 2020)***



### **Professor Emeritus**

**James C. Hackler** died on April 13, 2020 in Victoria, BC. He was a professor in the UAlberta Department of Sociology for a full three decades, from 1965 to 1995, having received his PhD at the University of Washington with a specialization in criminology.

In a short autobiographical piece penned in 1995, Jim wrote: “My life has been spectacularly ordinary.” The piece then went on to make the ordinary—a childhood prank, a short boxing stint, running a small field hospital, becoming a sociologist—spectacularly interesting.

His former colleagues remember him as outgoing and gregarious, and as an avid cyclist. He and his wife Bunny were known to host an annual event for faculty and students jauntily dubbed “The Gathering of Deviants.”

Jim Hackler’s professional contributions were many and significant. Recognized as a pioneer of criminology in Canada, he authored scores of articles and a number of books, including *The Prevention of Youthful Crime: The Great Stumble Forward*, *Canadian Criminology: Strategies & Perspectives*, and *Crime and Canadian Public Policy*. He is internationally known for his leadership in developing the field of comparative juvenile justice.

In the department, Jim served for many years as the Director of the Center for Criminological Research and helped lead the creation of both the MA in Criminal Justice and the BA in Criminology. He was a proponent of applied and

community-engaged research, mentored dozens of graduate students, and regularly served on graduate committees both within and outside of the department.

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