



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Chair's Greeting

It is finally springtime in Edmonton - a good time to breathe and reflect on new activities and broad-reaching accomplishments in the Department of Sociology. As always, there is much afoot. We are pleased with this newsletter to highlight innovations to the B.A. Criminology Program and the groundbreaking addition of a Certificate in Applied Social Science Research; celebrate awards such as Dr. Jana Grekul's McCalla Professorship and the accomplishments of undergraduate Crystal Choi; welcome Dr. Nicole Denier to the department and bid a happy retirement to graduate advisor Nancy Evans; highlight recent research and teaching activities; and showcase events such as the "Keyword: Justice" panel at the upcoming International Sociological Association. I welcome you to peruse the stories below to find out more. Please be in touch at any time. -[Sara Dorow](#)



The Charlene Marshall Award in Sociology

The Department continues to build toward our goal of a \$25,000 endowment in honour of Charlene Marshall, who passed away last August. Charlene served for 26 years as undergraduate advisor, impacting thousands of sociology and criminology students with her dedicated, witty, and collegial approach. Proceeds from the **Charlene Marshall Memorial Award** Endowment will go to a deserving undergraduate each year to support travel to a conference or other academic learning opportunity.

Earlier this year, Charlene's daughter Melanie kick-started the endowment with a donation of \$5,000. Since then, a number of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends have joined her. **If you have not yet had the opportunity, we invite you to help us reach our goal!** Please click [here](#) to give. You can also call Annual Giving at (780) 492-7587 or toll free at 1-877-992-7587 for further information or to donate by phone.

Thank you.

KEYWORD: JUSTICE

--a special UAlberta presentation at the ISA World Congress of Sociology--

DR. GEORGE PAVLICH - Unrestored Justice: Promises of Law and Community
DR. MARTA URBANIK - Street Justice: Ethical Gangsters in Toronto
DR. KEN CAINE - Environmental Justice and Indigenous Self-Governance in the Canadian North
ISABEL SCHEUNEMAN SCOTT - Moderator

Tuesday, July 17, 2018
12:30 - 1:30
Publisher's Lounge, Exhibit Hall C



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Sociology at ISA

UAlberta Sociology will be well represented at the International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, July 15-21. "How the State Shapes Social Movements," one of four specially selected Canada-themed sessions, is organized by Dr. Dominique Clément. PhD student Eva Bogdan is co-organizing a session on "Disasters and Community Engagement" and Dr. Sara Dorow is co-organizing the session "Employment-Related Mobilities in Canada." A dozen other faculty and graduate students from the department are also presenting their research.

We invite all attendees to stop by the department booth at the conference Expo and to attend the special departmental presentation **Keyword: JUSTICE** on Tuesday, July 17th, 12:30 - 1:30 (Exhibitor Hall C). Three of our faculty will engage in a dynamic discussion of the diverse possibilities and limitations of justice as a key concept in sociological scholarship.



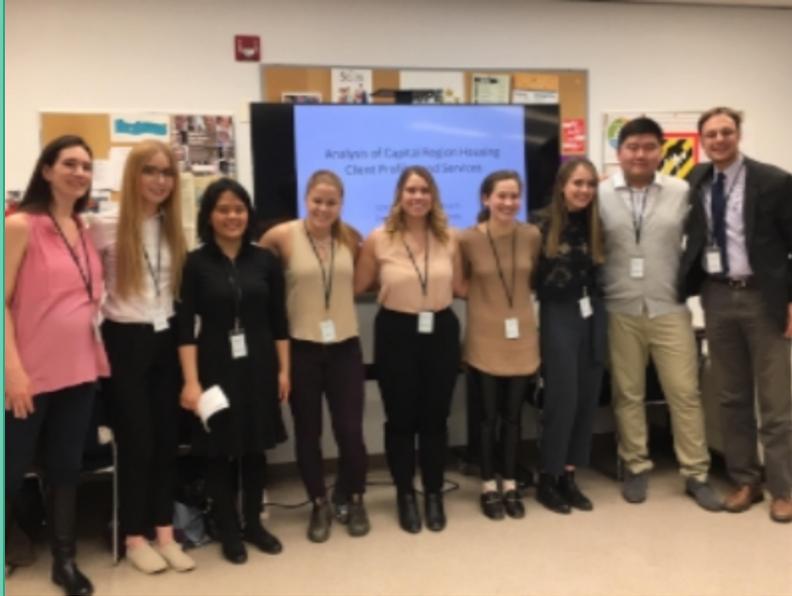
A Warm Welcome to Assistant Professor Nicole Denier

Dr. Nicole Denier brings expertise in labour markets, public policy, gender and sexuality, migration, and quantitative methods. Her work considers the labour market as both an engine and a site of social transformation. To this end, her recent publications have documented sexual orientation inequality in the Canadian labour market, the importance of job loss in spurring geographic mobility across Canada, and the impact of labour market transitions on health in later life. After receiving a PhD in Sociology from McGill University, Nicole joined the Department of Sociology at Colby College as a Postdoctoral Fellow . She is currently conducting a sweeping mixed methods project on sexual orientation inequality in Canadian workplaces and looks forward to advancing work on industrial transformation across North America. She is delighted to join the department as a tenure-track assistant professor.



Farewell to Nancy Evans

At the end of May we bid adieu to **Nancy Evans**, who is retiring after more than thirty years of service to the University. The Department has been fortunate to have Nancy in the position of Graduate Coordinator since 2010. We are very happy that Nancy can now embark on an extended period of well-earned leisure and time with her family, but are sad to see her go. Nancy's encyclopedic memory, strategic thinking, and no-nonsense warmheartedness have added immeasurably to the experiences of many graduate students and faculty members. She made it her mission to help students and faculty navigate through the often-confusing paperwork of the university bureaucracy, and constantly sought out ways to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and empathy of the graduate office. Nancy is also a supportive mentor and friend to the rest of the staff. We wish her all the best!



Introducing the Certificate in Applied Social Science Research

In response to the increased need for social research skills, the Department of Sociology has spearheaded the development of the Certificate in Applied Social Science Research at the University of Alberta. Led by Dr. Michelle Maroto and Dr. Gillian Stevens, with assistance from postdoctoral fellow Dr. Erwin Selimos, the Certificate develops students' research skills through a combination of coursework and hands-on research experience. Course requirements include an overview of methods used in social science research, an in-depth study of at least one methodological approach used in the social sciences, and a grounding in statistical analysis. Students gain firsthand experience through placements in ongoing research projects led by faculty members, government departments, or community organizations. Available to students in all disciplines, the Certificate is set to "go live" in fall 2019. A capstone internship course was piloted this past winter. Students partnered with Capital Region Housing (Edmonton) to study who accesses their social housing services; they formally presented their findings in April.



Expansion of the BA Criminology Program

The Department's proposed expansion of the BA Criminology program has just received official institutional approval to launch in fall 2019. The new program will grow to accommodate up to 200 students, providing increased access for students entering UAlberta from high school as well as for current undergraduate students interested in applying. The program retains a competitive field placement stream that provides students the opportunity to complete two hands-on, for-credit internships with a range of local criminal justice organizations. Exciting new course offerings include a mandatory Native Studies course and a third-year special topics course taught on a rotating basis by PhD candidates in the Department. Several other criminology courses - on policing, gangs, and prisons - are currently being developed. Students in the expanded program will also be able to participate in a number of experiential learning opportunities and an annual student-led conference.



Awards

Many congratulations to recent award winners in the Department.

Crystal Choi, recent BA Criminology graduate, has earned two of the highest accolades from the Faculty of Arts: the Douglas E. Smith Medal in Arts and the Governor General's Silver Medal. (Crystal is also an accomplished aerial artist.)

Dr. Jana Grekul has been awarded a three-year University of Alberta *McCalla Professorship* (which recognizes outstanding contributions to the integration of research and teaching) as well as the University's *Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*.

Dr. Amy Kaler was this year's recipient of the *Faculty of Arts Research Excellence (Full Professor)* award.

Dr. Leslie Cove garnered the 2018 *Faculty of Arts Contract Instructor Teaching Award*.

Dr. Jeff Brassard was awarded the Department's *Bill Meloff Teaching Award* (Contract Instructor) and elected to contribute the associated funds to the Charlene Marshall Memorial Award. Thank you, Jeff!



New Publications: Focus on Theory & Culture

George Pavlich, 2018. 'Restorative Justice and the Rights of the Accused', *Restorative Justice: An International Journal*

If unregulated, the powers that restorative justice employs could potentially put those accused of wrongdoing at the mercy of its agents' unfettered discretion. At the same time, insisting on fixed 'rights of the accused' will likely undermine attempts to salvage a locally responsive justice. Pavlich proposes that rights be conceived more broadly as part of historical power struggles, and specifically as attempts to resist the injustices of restorative subjection.

Robyn Lee, 2018. 'Breastfeeding and Sexual Difference: Queering Irigaray', *Feminist Theory*
Through induced lactation, adoptive mothers, fathers, and trans people have begun breastfeeding with greater frequency. In this way, breastfeeding exposes the instability of binary categories of sex. Luce Irigaray insists that sexual difference demands a language that is dynamic and fluid, capable of expressing difference while always keeping open the possibility of transformation and change. Lee extends Irigaray's work in order to theorise breastfeeding from a perspective that is both feminist and queer.

Richard Westerman, 2018. 'Intentionality and the Aesthetic Attitude,' *British Journal of Aesthetics*
Westerman argues that Bence Nanay's recent revival of the concept of 'aesthetic attitude' presupposes a certain intentionality towards the object. Whether we see the same object as informative or aesthetically gratifying depends on whether we understand it as, say, a map or as a work of art. Furthermore, intending an object as aesthetic means we treat it as internally coherent: its properties are defined in relation to one another, rather than the purposes of a subject.



Where are they now? Dr. Melinda Mills

After studying sociology and demography for her M.A. at the University of Alberta, **Dr. Melinda Mills** went on to receive her PhD in Demography with distinction from the University of Groningen in 2000. She subsequently worked at the University of Bielefeld (Germany) and University of Amsterdam (Netherlands) before moving in 2014 to the University of Oxford, where she is currently Chair of the Department of Sociology. Her research focuses on the analysis of inequality and life course, and on statistical methods to study these processes, using large-scale databases from various countries. She has been

Editor-in-Chief of *International Sociology* and, more recently, the *European Sociological Review*. Dr. Mills currently leads several large projects in the emerging area of sociogenomics, which combines sociology with molecular genetics. This includes a European Research Council funded project 'SOCIOGENOME' and a National Centre for Research Methods project on teaching sociogenomics to social scientists. She is currently an Executive Council member of the UK's Economic and Social Research Council and a member of the highest supervisory Board of the Dutch National Science Foundation.



Graduate Student Profile (PhD): Charles Stubblefield

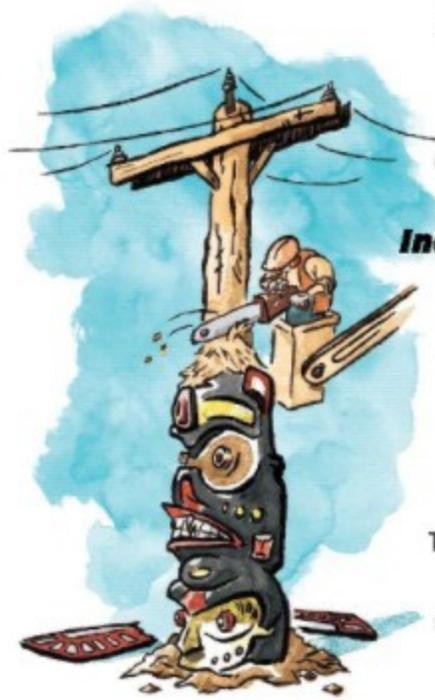
Charles Stubblefield is a second-year doctoral student supervised by Dr. Richard Westerman. His doctoral dissertation will explore regimes of knowledge: how institutions retain, organize, and clarify rationalities. Through his research, Charles aims to conceptualize methods through which subjects can assert agency in their lives and in society. Currently, Charles is working on his doctoral specialization in environmental sociology and assisting Dr. Sourayan Mookerjea and Dr. Sheena Wilson with their Future Energy Systems project. His work on this project includes interviewing Alberta scientists, local activists, and members of Indigenous communities about their visions of energy production in the future. In his free time, Charles enjoys spending time with his wife, Skye, visiting coffee shops, exploring Alberta, and travelling (he has traveled to 19 countries!). Charles also runs the

'Caffeinated Writers' Reading Group' to promote collaboration among students and the university at large. In the long term, Charles hopes to engage in collaborative work across disciplines as a professor and researcher.



Innovation in Teaching: A Dramaturgical Approach to Social Psychology

This past term, I redesigned Sociology 241: Social Psychology by combining detailed readings of classic social psychological experiments with theories and techniques drawn from microsociology and dramaturgy. Alongside traditional readings, lectures, and exams, I introduced a series of assignments drawn from the concept of character creation as found in role-playing games (RPGs) like Dungeons & Dragons. (The pedagogical use of RPG elements is well researched and utilized in a variety of classroom settings.) Students were asked to create a fictional persona that would be used to complete two written assignments later in the course. Performing and writing about social interactions through a fictional persona encouraged students to think through the delicate balance between actor and audience, backstage and front stage, social influences and individual characteristics. -Sonja Sapach, PhD Student (ABD)



Prof. Robert Brym

University of Toronto

**Genocide, Critical
Race Theory, and
Indigenous Canadians**

Thursday, March 29th

9:30—10:50am

Tory Lecture Theatre 12,
University of Alberta

For more information, please contact:
Annette.Perreault@nelson.com

Teaching about Racism and Decolonization

In September 2012, I sat in Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto with about 2000 other students. **Dr. Robert Brym** stood in front of us and began his lecture -- and my introduction to sociology. Fast forward 6 years: I am just wrapping up my Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Alberta, where visiting speaker Dr. Brym is delivering a guest lecture in Dr. Ken Caine's first year sociology course. The title of his talk, "Genocide, Critical Race Theory, and Indigenous Canadians," caught my attention. Although it is now my primary theoretical framework, I didn't remember learning anything about critical race theory -- especially in the Canadian context -- until my fourth year of undergrad. It was thus encouraging to see first-year students introduced to institutional racism with concepts grounded in current events and experiences (for example, Colton Boushie's murder and the subsequent acquittal of Gerald Stanley), and to be challenged to consider the many ways that settlers can reproduce racist ideas, regardless of intention. Much is to be done in the discipline of sociology and in society -- but it is heartening to know that students at the University of Alberta are being formally introduced to these ideas early in their education. - Mitra Mokhtari, MA Student



Speaker Series Re-cap

How should we counter the narrative that “good things” happened at residential schools? How should we study social phenomena that are too complex to fit either micro or macro scales of investigation? How has the media helped shape U.S. vertical hegemony post-9/11? These were the three main questions tackled in the Department’s 2017-2018 Speaker Series.

Professor Andrew Woolford, a sociologist from the University of Manitoba and author of *This Benevolent Experiment: Indigenous Boarding Schools, Genocide and Redress in the United States and Canada* (2015), shared his experience of conducting community-based research in collaboration with the survivors of the Assiniboia residential school. **Professor Olli**

Pyyhtinen of the University of Tampere in Finland drew on the example of plastic waste to examine how scales are enacted and maintained in associations, conduits, and connections involving both humans and more-than-human materials and processes.

Professor Lisa Parks, an MIT global media scholar, drew on her recent book *Vertical Mediation and the War on Terror* to explore how media technologies and cultures have been organized to reassert US vertical hegemony after 9/11.

Our thanks to co-sponsors of the series: the Departments of Political Science, English and Film Studies, and Modern Languages and Cultural Studies; Dr. George Pavlich (CRC, Social Theory, Culture and Law); and Dr. Kevin Haggerty (CRC, Surveillance Ecologies).

Intermedia Research Studio Update

The Intermedia Research Studio hosted a number of workshops, co-labs, and exhibitions this year. One highlight was participation in the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 Conference, hosted by the city of Edmonton. Along with its research partner iDoc, the Intermedia Research Studio was one of just three Canadian research teams accepted to present their research under the conference theme "Climate Change and Cities." The Studio was also invited by the City to participate in the public IPCC program for local audiences, Change for Climate. Graduate researchers **Rezvaneh Erfani Hossein Pour** and **Juan Guevera** organized a photo contest that invited photographers from around the world to respond to one of two questions: What does climate change look like in your city? What does climate justice activism led by women look like in your city? A selection of the submitted photographs were streamed on the main stage during the event. Following are the top three prize winners (submitted by Aleksandra Afanasyeva (Edmonton), José Luis Guevara (Paris), and Jasmine Thomas (Winnipeg), respectively):





The Intermedia Research Studio aspires to be a leader in decolonizing the social sciences and to be the leading research creation studio in the social sciences in Canada and beyond. For more information or to get involved contact [Dr. Sourayan Mookerjee](#) (Director).



In Memoriam: Gwen Wilson

On Sunday, May 6, 2018, [Gwen Wilson](#) died peacefully at the age of 99 years. Gwen served for many years as the Executive Assistant to the Chair in Sociology. From a colleague who worked with Gwen: "She brightened the day of all who came into contact with her. Gwen was always engaged and eager to make a positive contribution." In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [Alzheimer's Society](#), the [Bissell Centre](#), or the charity of one's choice.



In Memoriam: Dr. Anatole Romaniuc

Dr. Anatole Romaniuc died on March 5, 2018, at the age of 94, at home in Ottawa. Anatole Romaniuc was a prolific scholar of demography. Soon after his retirement in 1993 from Statistics Canada, where he

founded the Demography division, Dr. Romaniuc was invited to serve as Adjunct Professor by the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta. He retired from the academic world in 2014, after more than six decades of professional activity. Dr. Romaniuc's last article was published in the 2017 fall/winter issue of *Canadian Studies in Population*. All who knew Anatole had great respect for him. He was a wise, warm, elegant, and compassionate man, possessing a sharp intellect. And he was never too busy to help and mentor those around him, offering wise counsel to friends and colleagues who sought his advice. The full In Memoriam of Anatole Romaniuc can be accessed at the [Canadian Population Society](#) website.

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta

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