



Wisconsin Update

Department of Sociology • Fall 2018

For Sociology Alumni and Friends of the University of Wisconsin–Madison

Inside:

- From the Chair 2
- Welcoming Two New Members 2
- Spring 2018 Graduations 3
- The Wisconsin Idea Course 4
- Hauser Research Scholars 5
- Graduate Student Wendy Li 6
- Alumnus Marty Preizler 7

57 Types of Analysis Demonstrate Illegal Immigration Does Not Increase Violent Crime

When Associate Professor Michael Light, with colleague Ty Miller of Purdue, set out to research the effect of undocumented immigration on crime, the conclusions initially were unexpected. Says Light, “This is one of those rare areas everyone is talking about, but the conversations are occurring in a void of research. Undocumented immigrants exhibit risk factors that we typically associate with high-crime populations—high poverty rates, unstable employment and housing, and low educational attainment. However, there are other reasons to anticipate less crime from undocumented immigrants. Immigrant communities tend to exhibit lower crime levels, as do first-generation immigrants. Selection can also play a role. The idea is, immigrants are driven by pursuit of education and economic opportunities for themselves or their families,” Light adds. “Moreover, migration—especially undocumented migration—requires a lot of motivation and planning, and those characteristics aren’t highly correlated with a high crime-prone disposition.”

Their research asked if increases in illegal immigration in recent decades caused a commensurate increase in violent crimes. Running

57 separate models of data analysis, Light and Miller reached more consistent conclusions than anticipated. Their analyses of data from 1990-2014 show that illegal immigration does not increase crime. In fact, it may contribute to the decline in US crime during this period. “The direction of the relationship is fairly clear,” says Light. “It’s negative.”

When asked about the crimes that are committed by immigrants, Light explains the conclusion this way: “Imagine I were to claim that women are less violent than men, which is as close to a social fact that we have in criminology. Someone might well reply that this is not true, because, according to FBI records, in 2015 over 78,000 women were arrested for violent crimes and nearly 1,000 were arrested for homicide. These statistics are accurate, but they don’t contradict the statement that men tend to be more violent than women. Nor do they change the fact that in the same year men accounted for 80% of all violent arrests and 89% of all homicide arrests. What these statistics mean is that the rate of violent crime tends to be much higher among men than among women. If there were no women, then the violent crime rate for the population

continued on page 5



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Jordan Madden Awarded a Truman Scholarship



Sociology and political science major Jordan Madden has been awarded a Truman Scholarship. Out of 756 candidates, only 59 received the national award this year, based on finalists’ academic success and leadership accomplishments, as well as

their likelihood of becoming public service leaders. In his freshman year, Madden started a political advocacy organization aimed at making

reproductive healthcare more accessible and affordable. Active in student government, he is one of 16 students who allocates millions of student fee dollars, helps draft the University Health Services budget, and advocates alongside state policymakers for policies and positions that help UW students. Madden has worked in research institutions, campaign offices, nonprofits, and several university committees dedicated to making campus more equitable, accessible, and affordable to all students. Congratulations, Jordan!

From the Chair



We live in an exciting and important time to study and practice sociology. Skills developed by our undergraduate majors are increasingly important for making sense of the world. Sociological research contributes fundamentally to our understanding of vital issues like growing social polarization, experiences of immigrants and receiving communities, increasing health disparities,

social implications of climate change, and consequences of mass incarceration to list but a few. We remain among the top-ranked sociology departments in the world, reflecting our broad training and career preparation of undergraduates, rigorous graduate training, and cutting-edge research.

We are very excited that we have two new exceptionally talented faculty members joining us, John Eason and Katie Jensen. Read more about them below.

Among ongoing initiatives is our push to provide a wider range of internships to undergraduate majors. In addition to the research internships associated with the Concentration in Analysis and Research (CAR) program, sociology majors now have access to internship opportunities in public service through Badger Reach, and to government internships via the Wisconsin in DC program. The department also has instituted an annual award competition to support undergraduates in rewarding—though otherwise unpaid—summer internships, and we are planning an initiative through which alumni can directly support student travel to professional conferences to present their research.

The many skills that sociology majors develop—critical

thinking, communication, data management and analysis, and the ability to understand the context in which human behavior occurs—are in high demand, and the department's increased investment in internship experiences is a valuable component of preparation for success after graduation.

Other ongoing departmental initiatives include the development of a closer collaborative relationship with SuccessWorks, the new L&S center to support professional development (careers.ls.wisc.edu). We are working closely with SuccessWorks to develop a range of resources and events to support our undergraduate majors. These include a page dedicated to professional development and careers on our new website, and a large fall mentoring event called "Sociology at Work" to introduce freshmen and sophomores to the sociology major and careers it can lead to.

We have an excellent new cohort of graduate students joining us this year. Our graduate program remains highly selective, attracting top students from around the world and preparing them for high-profile careers. Our program increasingly emphasizes interdisciplinary research and enhanced investment in professionalization opportunities in preparation for a diverse labor market. Recent PhDs have taken positions in top-tier research universities, elite teaching colleges, think tanks, state government, and a range of other fields.

On behalf of the department, I would like to express our collective gratitude to our generous alumni for helping the department remain strong while pursuing new initiatives in a challenging time. Thank you for your continued support!

On, Wisconsin!

James Raymo, Professor and Chair

The annual Wisconsin Update is prepared by the Department of Sociology publications committee:

Tina Hunter (editor), with contributions from Ted Babcock, Patrick Brenzel, Michelle Bright, Joe Conti, Charlotte Frasca, Vicki Fugate, Ellen Jacobson, Alice Justice, Dana Rasmussen, Toni Schulze, and Susan Vial.

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Sociology Department Welcomes Two New Members



Katherine Jensen (far right in photo) is a recent PhD in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. An ethnographer of race and immigration, Jensen's dissertation examined Brazil's asylum system. She will join the department in 2019 as an assistant professor and will also hold an appointment in International Studies.



John Eason (PhD 2008, University of Chicago) joined the department from Texas A&M as an associate professor. A sociologist of crime, race, and health, Eason's most recent book, *Big House on the Prairie* (2017, University of Chicago Press), is an ethnography of rural prisons and the communities that house them. John (right in photo) is pictured with son, Major.

Spring 2018 Graduation Celebrations



Spring Undergraduate Ceremony

Dozens of graduating seniors accompanied by family and friends joined Sociology faculty and staff in May for our third graduation celebration. After a breakfast reception, Chair James Raymo welcomed everyone, and Professor Mike Massoglia addressed the assemblage by sharing reflections and encouragement. Raymo called the names of our graduates, and advisor Ellen Jacobson joined in congratulating each graduate as they crossed the stage. A noon ceremony for all UW graduating seniors was held at Camp Randall.

PhD Celebrations

May 11 was a joyful day in the Sewell Social Science Building, as family and friends joined faculty and staff to celebrate the achievements of students completing doctoral degrees.

The Minority Recruitment & Retention Committee hosted a brunch to honor five of the Solidarity students earning a PhD. Tributes to these students of color—punctuated by both laughter and tears—detailed their struggles as well as their triumphs, along with other reminiscences about their years in the graduate program and their hopes for the future.

Later, the traditional hooding ceremony for all students completing a doctoral degree took place with fanfare and accolades. Guests came from near and far—cities across the US, as well as China, Korea, and Turkey. Each student's faculty advisor summarized the student's dissertation and discussed the contributions their research will make. It was astonishing to be reminded of the breadth of sociological undertakings and the fascinating ways in which student expertise will affect our world.

Our new alumni researched an array of topics: environmental racism in Brazil, peasant relocation in China, agricultural development in East Africa, welfare in Chicago, policing in Milwaukee, financial market regulation, marriage migration politics, children's experiences in segregated preschools, adolescent health and school achievement, to name just a few.



Gina Longo, Daanika Gordon, Casey Stockstill, and Katrina Quisumbing King

Students earning a PhD include:

Tatiana Alfonso Sierra	Jinho Kim
Ian Carrillo	Gina Marie Longo
Ellen Dinsmore	Bo Hee Min
Yue Du	Katrina Quisumbing King
Nate Ela	Sarah Stefanos
Laura Frye-Levine	Casey Stockstill
Daanika Gordon	Ayca Zayim



Course provides a treasure chest of information

I grew up in rural Green Lake County, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in secondary education, and during my 36 years as a teacher and administrator, worked in a number of relatively small Wisconsin communities. I have seen first-hand the benefits that implementation of the Wisconsin Idea has brought to me and to the communities that I have served.

Though I grew up benefiting from the Wisconsin Idea, I did not realize what a pioneer Wisconsin has been in implementing the notion that the boundaries of the university extend to the boundaries of the state in its mission to educate. This course broadened my historical understanding of how the Wisconsin Idea emerged as a compact between early legislative leaders, governors, and university leaders to utilize the expertise of university professors and researchers in the development of the state—first in agriculture and later in other disciplines including government organization. I came to realize that the outreach services that are emblematic of the Wisconsin Idea as originally defined have grown over the years to meet the needs of an expanding and changing population and economy.

I came to the class with my own ideas about the Wisconsin Idea based on my background. The classroom setting was important in expanding that understanding. I learned from others in the class who had different experiences with the Wisconsin Idea. The lectures are a treasure chest of information and can be accessed by community groups to study and better understand important topics using university expertise, exemplifying the Wisconsin Idea in action.

Mary Boyd,
lifelong Wisconsinite and former
Wisconsin teacher and administrator

Forward? The Wisconsin Idea Course

Created by staff member Patrick Brenzel in 2015, and taught by Sociology Professor Chad Goldberg in 2016, followed by Professor Eric Sandgren of the School of Veterinary Medicine in 2017, our third course will be led by Professor Tom O’Guinn of the Wisconsin School of Business. This uniquely non-partisan topics course is the product of an idea that blossomed during Brenzel’s volunteer work, and involves significant collaboration among UW campuses and citizens across the state. “Forward? The Wisconsin Idea, Past and Present” examines the origins of the Wisconsin Idea and its historical application across Wisconsin and beyond by engaging students and faculty from the UW System in a broader public conversation with the citizens of the state. Brenzel continues to devote significant leadership to this endeavor, and also receives substantial input from others, including Emeritus Professor Joe Elder.

Supporters of the course have honored us with generous donations, and we have created an account specifically for those who wish to support this endeavor. **To donate, visit www.wiscidea.com**

O’Guinn of School of Business to Lead Third Year



Childhood fascination with geography sparked Thomas O’Guinn’s initial desire to come to Wisconsin. A Texas native, young O’Guinn was intrigued with our cooler climate as well as our proximity to Canada in contrast to the Texas heat and its border with Mexico. The adult O’Guinn has not been disappointed in our geography and natural environment, calling our state, “a world-class beauty, a spiritual place.”

Chair and professor in the Department of Marketing, O’Guinn was tapped to lead the third course offering in Fall 2018 after his appreciation of the state and its underlying values caught the attention of Chad Goldberg, the course’s first instructor. O’Guinn states, “The Wisconsin Idea was one of the central attractions for me to leave my position at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign after 24 years and come to UW in 2006.” He adds, “I grew up believing in participatory democracy as served up by universities. We should all see ourselves as servants of this idea. *Teaching citizenship to create informed citizens is the most important thing I teach, the most noble part of my job.* I bring to the course my unique background that posits business can and should use social movements to inform actions and decisions.” As this course gains momentum, O’Guinn adds nuance to our understanding with his research on why people buy what they buy, and how those purchasing decisions are determined by social forces.

We are very excited to have O’Guinn leading the course this fall, a collaboration that adds perspective from another of UW’s prominent disciplines. Says course creator Patrick Brenzel, “From considering and understanding the role of health care and education to the need to appreciate environmental issues and natural areas, Tom brings a vitally important perspective that places the mission of business on equal footing with other stakeholders. We need to understand business as a partner rather than a driving force, and Tom is uniquely suited to distill the knowledge that will help us to make this critical shift.”

We are honored to be part of the fulfillment of Thomas O’Guinn’s youthful goal to explore Wisconsin, and now to further the Wisconsin Idea. O’Guinn follows last year’s successful collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine in which Eric Sandgren led the course to much acclaim.

Hauser Research Scholars Named

Five of our promising graduate students received scholarships in honor of Robert M. and Taissa S. Hauser. The Hauser Fund supports the recruitment and training of highly talented sociology graduate students by offering award supplements to support their research. Recipients are students with unusual potential for productivity in rigorous empirical research.

Jingying He researches the social reproduction of inequality across generations and how it affects the status attainment processes of children. **Jason Robey** is interested in studying the social consequences of incarceration, both for the individual and for society. **Nathan Seltzer's** research examines how structural changes in US labor markets influence demographic processes, including fertility and mortality. **Fumiya Uchikoshi** studies diverging family behaviors and their impact on the creation of social inequality. **Leafia Ye's** primary research interests are immigrant incorporation and social determinants of well-being.



Jingying He



Jason Robey



Nathan Seltzer



Fumiya Uchikoshi



Leafia Ye

continued from page 1

would be the violent crime rate among men. Thus for 2015 the rate would be 195 per 100,000 in the population without women, when in actuality the violent crime rate was far less—120 per 100,000 for the entire population. In other words, our chance of being violently victimized would be substantially higher if the population of women were removed, even though women have committed tens of thousands of offenses. The same logic holds for removing the population of undocumented immigrants.”

Light says about the importance of understanding the results of the work: “Public discourse divorced from data is problematic because policies should not be drafted in a vacuum of research. Sociologist Douglas Massey and his colleagues made a relevant comment: ‘Whenever a policy is derived in a climate of fear, without any real understanding of the actual workings of the social or economic system it aspires to influence, the stage is set for unintended consequences.’ For this reason, understanding whether undocumented immigration increases crime is a paramount concern.”

Over the summer, department members as well as friends and family visited the numerous Bucky on Parade statues in the Madison area. There were 85 life-sized statues across Dane County, including 15 on campus, each decorated with a different theme.



Sociology Turns to World Trade

Wendy Li always wanted to be a diplomat. Now in her first summer of fieldwork in the Department of Sociology, Wendy observed, “If you had told me three years ago, as I was graduating from college, that I would later pursue a PhD in sociology during the Trump administration, I’m not sure what would surprise me more: that Donald Trump would be elected president, or that I would end up in academia.”

Before beginning graduate school, Wendy was a federal employee in the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). USTR is a small White House agency that creates, negotiates, and enforces international trade policy on behalf of the United States. It is at the center of the action for the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement and overseeing the US system of tariffs. As a special assistant in the General Counsel’s office at USTR, Wendy’s job was a hybrid between paralegal, secretary, research assistant, and chief of staff. On any given day, she helped her boss—the lead US attorney on all international trade matters—manage his schedule and correspondence; she prepared policy memos and briefings; and she delegated work across a staff of 50 attorneys, all while acting as a gatekeeper to many external parties seeking to influence US trade policy.

Her experiences at USTR made it clear how important social networking and lobbying are to trade policy creation. But when she looked for scholarly analyses of her professional reality, she found none. She also realized that how trade policy is made, whether in academia or in the general public, was not well understood at a time of intense public scrutiny and high economic stakes. These realizations informed the research agenda she is now pursuing: how do “stakeholders”—private industry, interest groups, NGOs, activists, labor unions, diplomats, academics—shape international trade law?

Wendy is currently in Washington, DC, conducting fieldwork, focusing on how technology companies shape trade agreements. She is observing press conferences, congressional hearings, and public testimony, and conducting interviews with government officials, lobbyists, activists, and diplomats. Wendy hopes this research will not only advance academic theory, but contribute to better policy and educate the public on the complex but critically important role that trade policy plays in our lives. It is just this kind of theoretically-informed, public-and policy-relevant scholarship that advances the strong UW–Madison Sociology tradition of sifting and winnowing.



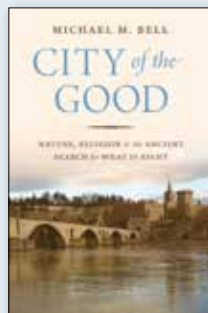
Wendy Li with former USTR Michael Froman in front of the USTR seal.

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Recent Faculty Book

Michael Bell *City of the Good: Nature, Religion, and the Ancient Search for What is Right*. Princeton University Press, 2018

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Consider donating to the Joann and Joe Elder Undergraduate Fund in Sociology (account 132751323).

Alumnus Preizler Gives Back through Enduring UW Connection

“Sociology and the College of Letters & Science provided me with a broad-based liberal arts education that established a foundation to comprehend, navigate, and improve the world,” says **Marty Preizler** (BS '66). “I learned critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that enabled me to be successful in work and life.” He adds, “Sociology also gave me a sense of compassion, multi-cultural appreciation, and humility.” He’s proud that UW Sociology ranks in the top three in the country.

Marty serves as our current Board of Visitors Chair following five years as a Board member. He also volunteers as an alumni mentor for SuccessWorks, the L&S center serving undergrads in career planning and advising. His interactions with students through SuccessWorks as well as other Sociology events have resulted in connections to our undergrads excited for his advice and guidance. He also has been a participant in Grandparents’ University, one of UW’s most successful alumni programs, attending two years with one of his grandsons. Marty cites his enormous pride as an alum as the primary reason he remains an active supporter of and participant in our department and the UW. “It’s astounding how Sociology and the university have thrived in an environment of drastic reductions in State financial support,” he observes. He further notes that barely 15% of the UW System budget comes from State revenue. “That cries out for alumni support,” he says. He and his wife, Lynn (BS '67), have recently established a needs-based scholarship to help students fulfill their dreams.



“Sociology also gave me a sense of compassion, multi-cultural appreciation, and humility.”

Marty Preizler (BS '66)

As for the impact of his Sociology education on his life, Marty relates that, “In 2007 the corporation that I was president and CEO of was recognized by *Madison Magazine* as one of the seven best places to work in Madison. This was not an accident, but rather the result of recognizing the worth of all employees as contributors to the vision and mission of the enterprise, as well as to improving the larger community.” As CEO he established a culture of trust, respect, and giving that reflected his social science roots.

Marty’s favorite memories of his years as an undergraduate include his first date with Lynn in 1964 during which they watched a movie at the Orpheum and enjoyed tea at the Pancake House on State Street. He and Lynn will celebrate their 50th anniversary this summer, and they have three children as well as five grandchildren—“all future Badgers,” he insists. He also fondly remembers seeing Ella Fitzgerald at the Field House at Homecoming, adding, “At the peak of her show, all of her soul and energy shaking the building, her sweat sprayed off into the front row where I was sitting—awesome!”

We are grateful for Marty’s continued support of our department and UW.



YOU can make an enormous difference in the future of Sociology at Wisconsin!

The Board of Visitors is dedicated to promoting the long term development of relationships with alumni and friends and to building the resources necessary to grow and sustain the Department of Sociology as a world leader in the social sciences. If you’d like to become a board member or are curious about how else you might contribute to our department, please contact Marty Preizler at mpreizler66@uwalumni.com



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Evicted Continues to Garner Awards



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Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by **Matthew Desmond** (PhD '10) won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction and the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award, and was named one of the best books of 2016 by *The New York Times*. It also was selected as the 2016 Go Big Read book for UW's common-reading program promoting campus dialogue on social justice. The Pulitzer Prize citation reads, "For a

deeply researched exposé that showed how mass evictions after the 2008 economic crash were less a consequence than a cause of poverty." The research focuses on eight Milwaukee families.

Keeping UW Sociology #1

Private support from alumni and friends is crucial to sustaining the top ranking and reputation of the Department of Sociology. Your gifts help recruit talented graduate students, provide financial aid that ensures access to higher education, and recognize the research and teaching of outstanding faculty members.

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