

UNLV



Department of Sociology Newsletter

Vol. 1 — 2015

Message from the Chair, Dr. Robert Futrell

I'm very honored to lead off this inaugural edition of the UNLV Sociology Department newsletter. For years, several of us in the Department imagined how useful a newsletter would be for connecting with our students, alumni, and friends. But, it took our newest colleague, Dr. Georgiann Davis, to make it a reality. Big thanks to Professor Davis for all her good work organizing and editing the newsletter. It has been a long time in coming. We all hope you enjoy it.

As I close in on my second year as department chair, I have developed an immense appreciation for UNLV Sociology. In the chair's role I have a bird's eye view, so to speak, of all the good work that happens. I am constantly struck by the intellectual seriousness and practical importance of the projects my colleagues pursue. When you read through the newsletter, you too will see the evidence of high quality, award-winning scholarship and teaching and, just as important, the engaged public sociology that UNLV sociologists make happen. The same is true of our more than 40 Ph.D. students involved in top-notch research, teaching,



and community change efforts. And, of course, none of this happens without our engaged undergraduates that provide the dynamism to our classes.

I am particularly amazed by how our department always stacks up so well compared to much larger departments in our university and around the

country. We're one of the very few UNLV graduate programs ranked in U.S. News and World Report's top-100 (94th to be exact). We also rank 21st in the nation for public media impact according to the Faculty Media Impact Project. This means our research extends far beyond academia to reach people worldwide. In addition, during the past two years, our faculty and graduate students have earned some of the most coveted UNLV awards, including the UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts Morris Teaching Award, UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award, Diversity Faculty Award, Schmeidel Lifetime Service Award, the Barrick Scholarship (two in one year!), and the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (first-place, back-to-back years!), just to name a few.

All signs point toward continuing our positive trajectory. We have added some excellent colleagues to our ranks over the past three years. Dr. Taka Yamashita joined us in 2012 after his time as a fellow at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Dr. Ranita Ray joined us one year later, fresh from her Ph.D. studies at the University of Connecticut. In 2014, Dr. Georgiann Davis came to UNLV after three years at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Also, in 2014, Dr. Anna Smedley became our department's first Assistant Professor in Residence, with a primary focus on teaching. I am very excited about each of these excellent scholars, wonderful teachers, and fine colleagues.

I am truly grateful to be part of the collective effort of UNLV Sociology.

Congratulations Faculty!

University of Missouri Distinguished Alumnus Award

Barb Brents was awarded the 2015 Noel P. Gist Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Missouri Department of Sociology. She was also the Plenary Speaker at the Troubling Prostitution Conference of the Prostitution Policy Section of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology in Vienna, Austria. Her talk was titled: "Neoliberalism, Prostitution and the Political Economy of Sex."



UNLV College of Liberal Arts Diversity Award

Takashi Yamashita received the 2015 College of Liberal Arts Diversity Award for his outstanding scholarly work.



UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award

Christie Batson was awarded a Faculty Opportunity Award for her new project on neighborhood resiliency in West Las Vegas—a study of community engagement, collective efficacy, and neighborhood attachment.



Award Winning Teacher Promoted and Tenured

Andrew Spivak received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in July 2014. He also received the prestigious UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award and the Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award.



Black Mountain Institute/College of Liberal Arts Humanities Faculty Fellow

Michael Ian Borer was selected as a Faculty Fellow for academic year 2015-2016. This competitive fellowship is awarded to faculty to "complete or substantially advance a major research project and to be connected to BMI's work, its programs, and its residential Bennett Fellows."



Welcome New Faculty

Georgiann Davis (left) (PhD 2011, University of Illinois at Chicago) and **Anna C. Smedley-López** (right) (PhD 2014, University of Nevada, Las Vegas) joined our department in Fall 2014.

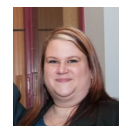


Congratulations Grad Students!



Kerie Francis successfully defended her dissertation titled “Pushing for New Options in Childbirth: A Case Study of Contemporary Integrative Midwifery.”

Sarah St. John was the 2015 recipient of the Shannon L. Bybee Award from the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling.



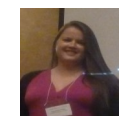
Denise Cook was a Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship recipient and was elected Chair of ASA Student Forum Advisory Board. She was also inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Jennifer Heineman received a UNLV Barrick Research Fellowship and was elected Chair of the Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division of SSSP.



Chris Connor received numerous awards including a Merit Award from UNLV’s Graduate and Professional Student Association. In August 2015, he will be joining the Washburn University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Genevieve Minter successfully defended her master’s thesis titled: “Awakening Ecological Consciousness: Toward an Ecopsychology of Young Children.”



Erick Lopez defended his professional paper titled “Assimilation, Income, and Diet Among Adult Latins in the U.S. He also received the Outstanding MA Student Award.

Jennifer Reed received a 2014-2015 Barrick Research Fellowship (\$15,000) from UNLV’s Graduate College.



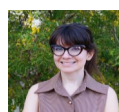
Allison Heard Sahl defended her dissertation titled “Gender, Employment Status, and Unpaid Household Labor: A Test of the Time Availability Perspective on Housework, Childcare, and Emotion Work Before, During, and After the 2007 Economic Recession.” She was also recognized with the DOS Outstanding PhD Student award, and also recently accepted a Postdoctoral Research position at UNLV with the Public Lands Institute.

Valarie Burke is the NACADA Region 9 Chair and attended the [NACADA Region 9 Conference](#) in March in Honolulu, Hawaii where she hosted the business meeting. She was also named the Executive Director of Graduate Student Services for [UNLV's Graduate College](#).



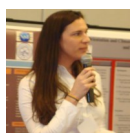
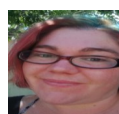
Lori Fazzino was recognized with the DOS Public Sociology Award for her work with Openly Sexual Campaign. She also received the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Award. And the Patricia Sastaunik Award.

Jenni Whitmer received first place for UNLV’s Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award. She also received an honorable mention at UNLV’s Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum for her presentation titled “Producing Authenticity: Personal Style Bloggers, Self Branding, and Cultural Intermediaries.” This Fall Jenni will be joining St. Ambrose University as a Visiting Assistant Professor.



Marko Salvaggio accepted an 18-month research fellowship with the Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory for the National Center for Health Statistics.

Rachel Macfarlane received a COLA PhD Student Summer Faculty Research Stipend to work with Dr Keene on a chapter about differences in individual grieving processes and outcomes. She also received the Patricia Sastaunik scholarship for \$2500.



Patricia Dutcher defended her dissertation (in Environmental Studies, chaired by Robert Futrell) titled “Burdens and Benefits of Climate Change Solutions: A Case Study of Climate Skeptics and Deniers in Rural Nevada.”

Congratulations Undergrads!



Pictured Above:
NEW AKD Students!

Outstanding SOC Senior

Claudia Chiang-Lopez

Ryan Larusso

C-Wright Mills Award

Paul Quinteros

UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees Reentry Scholarship

Katie Pessango

Outstanding SOC Junior

Ryen Lamb

Sidney Green Award

Ryen Lamb

Donald Barlow Scholarship

Linda Tompkins

Outstanding SOC Service Award

Michelle Carrier

Study Abroad Scholarship

Keila Escobedo

CSUN Think Ability Scholarship

Idelfonso Hernandez Izquierdo

Words, Words, Words

Robert Futrell and alum **Pete Simi** published a second edition of *American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement's Hidden Spaces of Hate* (Fall 2015, Rowman & Littlefield).

Andrew Spivak and co-authors (including graduate student **Jennifer Whitmer**) published "Gender and Status Offending: Judicial Paternalism in Juvenile Justice Processing" in *Feminist Criminology*. **Spivak** also co-authored a paper in press titled "Prohibiting Juvenile Access to Tobacco: Violation Rates, Cigarette Sales, and Youth Smoking" in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

Ranita Ray published "Exchange and Intimacy in the Inner City: Rethinking Kinship Ties of the Urban Poor" in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

Georgiann Davis' book *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis* (NYU Press) will be out August 2015. Davis also co-authored "Medical and Ethical Concerns Regarding Women with Hyperandrogenism and Elite Sport" for *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. She also published "Parents as Pawns: Intersex, Medical Experts, and Questionable Consent" in the 2nd edition of *Families as they Really Are*. She was also quoted in *Nature* in an article titled "Sex Redefined."

Chris Conner and **David Dickens** have a forthcoming article in *Studies in Symbolic Interactionism*. Their paper is titled "Deconstructing the Astructural Bias Critique of Symbolic Interactionism." **Conner** and **Dickens** also have a second article forthcoming in *The Weekend Societies Reader* titled "Electric Empires: From Deviant Subculture to Cultural Industry."

Chris Conner's article "Labeling Theory Reconsidered, An Empirical Critique" was accepted for publication in *Studies in Symbolic Interactionism*.

Dmitri Shalin published "Making the Sociological Canon: The Battle Over George Herbert Mead's Legacy" in *The American Sociologist*.

Jenny Heineman published "Sex Worker or Student? Legitimation and Master Status in Academia." In *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society, Special Edition on Problematicizing Prostitution: Critical Research and Scholarship*. She also published "The 20s Girls Girls!" in *Thirty-six Views of O*, edited by Kevin Lawler.

Michael Ian Borer published "Las Vegas," in the *Encyclopedia of Consumption and Consumer Studies*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

Lori Fazzino and **Michael Ian Borer** collaborated with Mohammed Abdel Haq to publish "The New Moral Entrepreneurs: Atheist Activism as Scripted and Performed Political Deviance," in *The Death and Resurrection of Deviance: Current Research and Ideas*.

Michael Ian Borer and **Tyler Schafer** published "Urbanization & Population," in *Investigating Social Problems*.

Lori Fazzino has a forthcoming co-authored chapter titled "Gender and Secularism: Paradoxes and Contradictions" in the Annual Review of the *Sociology of Religion*.

Simon Gottschalk and **Marko Salvaggio** published "Stuck Inside of Mobile: Ethnography in Non Places" in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

Simon Gottschalk published "Social innovation: Significato e Applicazioni" in *Salute e Società*.

Jennifer Reed published "From Ecofeminism to Eco-sexuality: Queering the Environmental Movement" in *Ecosexuality: When Nature Inspires the Arts of Love*. She also published "Sex Work and Sex Trafficking: Influencing State Policy on a Complex Social Issue" in *Sociologists in Action on Inequalities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*.

Marko Salvaggio and **Simon Gottschalk** published their paper "Stuck Inside of Mobile: Ethnography in Non-Places" in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

David Dickens' paper "Deconstructing the Astructural Bias Critique" has been accepted for publication in *Studies in Symbolic Interaction*.

David Dickens and **Tyler Schafer** also had their paper "Social Marking in Memory Entrepreneurship" recently accepted for publication in *Qualitative Sociology Review*.

Public Sociology

Dmitri Shalin and UNLV's Center for Democratic Culture (CDC) present [George Herbert Mead's correspondence and papers](#) in an Online library. The CDC's Visual Archives also include an [online digital library](#) of various interviews and the like. **Shalin** also organized a [Cross-Cultural Dialogue on Gay Marriage](#) and [Cross-Cultural Dialogue on Domestic Violence](#). In February 2015, **Shalin** was interviewed by *Las Vegas Review-Journal* about [suicide in Las Vegas](#).

In 2014-15, **Robert Futrell** was interviewed by a number of local and national new programs on right-wing extremism, including, [Here and Now](#), [On Point](#), [Inside Charlottesville](#), [State of Nevada](#), [Fox News](#), [Ralston Report](#), and the [Las Vegas Sun](#).

Genevieve Minter co-authored an article titled "[Top 10 Myths About Desalination](#)" in the November issue of a magazine called Water Conditioning and Purification International Magazine.

Georgiann Davis published a piece titled "[Time to End Sex-Testing of Female Athletes](#)" in *Ms. Magazine*. Davis also was invited to write a blog for Contexts to which she produced a piece titled "[What's Marriage Equality Got to do With Intersex?](#)"

Christina Parreira and **Barb Brents** were guests on an KNPR segment titled "[Silver State's Brothel Industry Continues to Shrink](#)."

Michel Ian Borer was quoted in *Business Week* in a piece titled "[Tony Hsieh Is Building a Startup Paradise in Vegas](#)." He also appear on KNPR's State of Nevada in a segment titled "[Should We Keep Downtown Las Vegas Weird?](#)" **Borer** was also quoted in a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* piece titled, "[Young people appear less interested in organized worship](#)" and another titled "[Tragic Shooting Reignites War Against Sports Mascots, Symbols](#)."

Simon Gottschalk appeared on The Social Network Show in a segment titled, "[When e-Communications Go Wrong](#)." He also appeared on Channel 8 CBS News in a segment titled "Researchers Say Social Media Affecting Interaction." **Gottschalk** was also a guest on KNPR's segment "[Can 'Serious' Reading Happen Online?](#)" **Gottschalk** was also quoted in a Las Vegas Review Journal piece titled, "[Expert: Stop Internet Habits from Becoming Addiction by Unplugging](#)."

Simon Gottschalk spent his Fall 2015 sabbatical leave in Paris, at the [Centre de Recherche sur l'Individu et la Societe Hypermodernes](#). He is currently collaborating with the Center on an international conference addressing the effects of social acceleration and hyper-connection.

Jennifer Reed was on The Green Divas Radio Show in a segment titled "[Nature as Erotic: Is 'Earthing' Ecosexual?](#)" She also was an invited panel speaker (by Nevada State Senator Aaron D. Ford) on "[The Business of Sex: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](#)," British-American Project Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada. She was also an invited panel speaker by Annie Sprinkle, feminist sex educator and sexecologist, "[ECOSEX! Make the Earth Your Lover: Heat Up Your Sex Life as You Slow Global Warming](#)," CatalystCon West Sexuality Conference, Los Angeles, California.

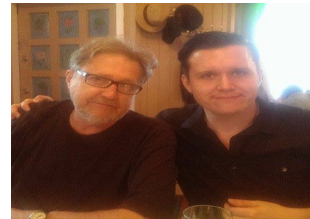
UNLV Sociology Snapshots



(left) **Dr. Michael Ian Borer** and his Capstone in Sociology Seminar class with Rehan Choudhry and his Life is Beautiful Festival team. Dr. Borer and his students conducted a “flash ethnography” of the festival and presented the results of their study to the LIB team.



(above) **Dr. Michael Ian Borer** with sociologists Christopher Schneider (Wilfrid Laurier University), John Johnson (Arizona State University), and Hans Bakker (University of Guelph) at the 2015 SSSI Couch-Stone Symposium, St. Petersburg, FL.



(above) **Dr. David Dickens** and **Chris Connor** at the 2014 SSSI/ASA annual meetings.



(above) **Dr. Takashi Yamashita** receives the UNLV College of Liberal Arts Diversity Award



(left) **Dr. Bo Bernhard** at the Asia Pacific Conference on Gambling and Commercial Gaming Research in Beijing, China.



(left) **Dr. David Dickens** hosted a group of Cultural Geography faculty and students from the University of Augsburg in Germany a few months ago, and they held a meeting/discussion with UNLV DOS faculty and graduate students.

UNLV Sociology Snapshots



(above) 2014-2015 Graduate Student Teacher Retreat. From left to right:
Dr. Robert Futrell, grad students, and **Dr. Christie Batson**



(above) Doctoral selfie at the Spring 2015 commencement.



(left) **Dr. Anna Smedley's** sociology students celebrating their Service learning Project



(above) **Jessica Recarey**, a SOC/POLI SCI double Major delivered the 2015 Spring commencement speech.



(above) UNLV Sociologists, past and present, gather during a break from the 2014 Society for the Study of Social Problems, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, and the American Sociological Association annual meetings in San Francisco, California.



(above) Sociology PhD Graduates!



(above) **Dr. Georgiann Davis** serves up laughter as auctioneer at the 2015 annual winter meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society in Washington, D.C.



(above) Drs. **Robert Parker** and **Eunette Gentry**

Personal Happenings

Denise Cook became a grandmother to her third grandchild (first grandson). From left to right (Evelyn, Jasmine, and Leonardo)



Jennifer Heineman had a baby! She tells "Little ornery Willa Rose Heineman was born April 19th, 2014. My partner and I have been trying to teach Willa to growl, "Praise Satan!" in public, with little success. But the little one does light up when we read books about children behaving badly."

Takashi Yamashita competed in the 2015 Las Vegas corporate challenge racquetball match as Team UNLV. He won the doubles tournament with Adam Koebke.



Jennifer Reed celebrated the birth of her third grandchild (her son, Dan's first child) on February 6, 2015, Lynk. He joins her daughter, Brianna's two children - Liam (age 4 years) and Lowan (age 2 years).

Rachel Macfarlane welcomed Rhonan Martineau Macfarlane into the world on December 15, 2014! Rhonan joined an older sibling (pictured right).

