

## From the Department Head



The Department, as with the rest of Purdue, is living through a period of fiscal austerity. Yet, we continue to thrive, making important contributions to scholarship and educating the next generation of Sociology graduate students and undergraduates in our twin majors of Sociology and Law and Society.

Here are three highlights:

-- Distinguished Professor of Sociology Kenneth Ferraro continues in his eighth year of service as the founding Director of the Center on Aging and the Life Course. The Gerontological Society of America (the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization working in the field of aging) selected Dr. Ferraro, to receive the Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award for 2011. The award is given to scholars "who have not only fostered excellence in the field, but have made a major impact by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues."

-- Professor Fenggang Yang's new book, *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist China*, has received a great deal of international attention, including space in the *New York Review of Books*. The book explains how religion in China survived its radical suppression during and after the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976, and how various religious groups have since managed to revive despite strict regulations.

-- Professor Scott Feld is teaching our Honors Research course sequence this year. Successful completion of these courses earns a student Sociology Department Honors. Each year, the instructor for the course selects a topic of research for the course. This year, the topic is "The impact of Facebook and related social media on the social lives of young adults." The first semester of the sequence is devoted to highly interactive joint exploration of the topic based initially upon students' experiences, and then considering both popular and scientific literature on these issues. In the second semester, each student will plan and execute a systematic empirical research project to add to our understanding of some real impacts of the new technologies on social life in cooperation with the instructor and the other members of the class.

The Department has had an excellent year, but not without losses. Professor Valentine Moghadam accepted a position at Northeastern University, where she will build their program in international relations. Staff member Vicki Biggs moved from a half-time position in the Department to a full-time position elsewhere in the university. Scheduling Deputy Laura Thompson completed a nursing degree and accepted a position with the Indiana University Hospital.

But new life also came into the Department. On the faculty side, Assistant Professor Michael Vuolo joined the Department. Professor Vuolo received his PhD in sociology, MS in statistics, and MS in mathematics from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Monica M. Trieu also joined the faculty, holding a joint appointment in Sociology and Asian American Studies. Professor Trieu received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine. Interviews with each are in the pages to follow.

Professor Jill Suitor ended her term as Director of Graduate Studies and Professor Mangala Subramanian became the new Director.

On the staff side, Roseanne Rhen took over duties as graduate secretary, and staff member Candace Lawson assumed the duties of scheduling deputy. They will work with Erin Fetter and Nicole Remley, who manage the business and financial side of the Department, and Marcy Jasmund who helps manage the front office

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the Department fund. Your contributions allow us to pursue our teaching, scholarly, and engagement activities with greater vigor and success. We are grateful for your support.

**Bert Useem**



## Monica Trieu

Assistant Professor



**Q. You've written a new book with the intriguing title, *Identity Construction among Chinese-Vietnamese Americans: Being, Becoming, and Belonging*. For the book, who did you study and what**

**are some of the key findings?**

Well, thank you! I borrowed the title from a Stuart Hall quote: "Cultural identity...is a matter of 'becoming' as well as of 'being'." For children of immigrants, it is very much a matter of belonging, or finding their own social, political, and economic space in the host society.

My book focuses on two ethnically distinct immigrant groups—Vietnamese and Chinese-Vietnamese who have emigrated from Vietnam to the United States. By taking the pre-migration approach that compares the experiences of different ancestral origin groups from a single nation—what I label as the intra-national ethnicity perspective—my study reveals important nuances in how each group experiences ethnic language knowledge, regional context and college resources. I also explore how these differences shape the negotiation of their ethnic self-identifications.

**Q. You have a joint appointment in Sociology and Asian American Studies. Are two departments better than one, at least in your experience?**

Oh most definitely! It has always been my dream to have a joint appointment in Sociology and Asian American Studies because I was trained in both fields. I majored in Sociology and minored in Asian American Studies as an undergraduate—which seems like forever ago I might add!— and I received my Ph.D. in Sociology with a graduate emphasis in Asian American Studies. So I am absolutely elated to be in a position where I can utilize my training to conduct research and teach in the two fields that I am so passionate about. My access to the people and resources in both departments is just an added bonus!

**Q. Your current project examines the experiences of 1.5 and second-generation Asian Americans who grew up in the Midwest. How do you do this work?**

In the past two decades, despite the fact that there has been an explosion of literature on the 1.5 and second-generation Asian American adaptation experience, there has been surprisingly little focus placed on children of immigrants from the Midwest. To address this void, a colleague and I will draw from Census data, and I hope to conduct 60-75 in-depth interviews on children of immigrants who grew up in the Midwest to supplement the numerical data.

## Michael Vuolo

Assistant Professor



**Q. You have advanced degrees in Sociology, Statistics and Mathematics. How does this training in three fields help you out?**

Human behavior does not follow strict theories and laws, but rather exhibits great variation, making experimentation difficult. With such complexity, we need techniques that are up to the challenge. Having degrees in Statistics and Mathematics definitely helps in this regard. I have future plans to bring techniques used in other fields into the social sciences.

**Q. You've been working on a project, funded by the National Institute of Justice and a foundation, to see how employers respond to applicants with records of low-level misdemeanors. Any preliminary results?**

Yes. The project, with Chris Uggen and Sarah Lageson (U of Minnesota), found that job applicants with a misdemeanor arrest are somewhat less likely to get a call back from prospective employers. We also examined how employers make distinctions between serious and non-serious records, explaining why the effect is so small compared to the large effects of felony records found in past studies.

**Q. In another study, you've been looking at the impact of experiences of adolescence on the transition to adulthood. Any surprising findings?**

One surprising finding is that, in this cohort followed annually since their freshman year of high school in 1988, my co-authors, Jeylan Mortimer (U of Minnesota)

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and Jeremy Staff (Penn State), and I found that those who drop out of college rarely go on to acquire a career. That is, even though they work full-time, they do not subjectively view their occupation as a "career." This group is also at a disadvantage economically, and we found that their economic situation was made worse by the recent recession. Even those who acquire an Associate's or Vocational-Technical degree are more likely to view their job as a career and are better able to weather the recession.

### **Q. What aspects of criminology do you most enjoy teaching?**

I particularly like debunking much of the false information that students, like the general public, perceive about crime and criminal justice. It is amazing how few students know, for example, of the great downward trend that crime is on, or of the large increase in incarceration and its potential effects.

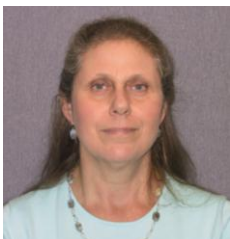
### **Q. Do you have any new projects?**

Several. First, with a graduate school colleague Julie Barrows (U of Minnesota), I'm working on the effect of gang task forces on juvenile crime. Second, I'm just beginning a project with Jeremy Staff and Jennifer Maggs (Penn State) that will examine the effect of the recent recession on young adult alcohol use. Third, using a database containing every tobacco control law since 1980 in combination with a nationally representative sample of youth, I am planning to examine the longitudinal effects of tobacco laws on youth and young adult smoking habits.

### **Q. Will we see any of your work in print soon?**

Articles will be coming out in early 2012 in *Social Forces* and *Developmental Psychology*.

## **Jill Suitor** Full Professor



J. Jill Suitor studies relationships between parents and their adult children in the middle and later stages of the life course. The primary focus of her research for the past 12 years has been a NIH-funded longitudinal study exploring parental favoritism toward adult children.

The first phase of this project (2000-2006) involved conducting interviews with mothers, fathers, and adult children in 550 families to investigate both generations' perspectives on whether parents favored some children over others in adulthood, and the consequences of such differentiation. She and her collaborator, Dr. Karl Pillemer (Cornell University), found that most mothers and fathers reported favoring some children over others regarding many issues, including emotional closeness, support provided to their children, and which children they would prefer as future caregivers when the parents faced serious illness or disability. Favored children were most likely to be daughters, last-borns, and children who shared the parents' values.

In the current phase of the project, Drs. Suitor and Pillemer have shifted the focus to the consequences of parental favoritism, using information collected in 2007-2011 during interviews with the same mothers and adult children. The findings from this phase have revealed that mothers' favoritism toward a particular child remained remarkably stable across time. Further, mothers' favoritism was associated with a higher risk of children's depression and unhappiness, as well as with conflict among the adult siblings. In addition, mothers facing illness and disability who were not provided care from their preferred children were more likely to be depressed and unhappy. Thus, favoritism appears to affect both generations.

One of the most interesting patterns shown by the new phase of the study is the importance of fathers', as well as mothers' favoritism. For example, recent work with Megan Gilligan, a doctoral student on the research team, has shown that fathers' favoritism may be even more detrimental on adult children's siblings than does mothers' favoritism.

Suitor and her team are hoping to extend their study of favoritism by conducting interviews with the same families again, focusing on whether favoritism is transmitted across the generations. Are adult children whose parents exhibited favoritism toward them in mid-life more or less likely to show favoritism toward their own children? Further, when such favoritism is transmitted across generations, what are the consequences for their young adult children many of whom are close to establishing their own families?

## FACULTY NEWS

### Kenneth Ferraro, Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award for 2011



Pictured here with some of his mentees are (from left to right): Jessica Kelley-Moore (PhD, Purdue, C' 2002), Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. (PhD, Purdue, C' 2004), Patricia Morton (Purdue graduate student), Ferraro, Tetyana Pylypiv Shippee (PhD, Purdue, C' 2008), and Janet Wilmoth (Purdue faculty, 1995-2002).

### President Cordova, Provost Sands, and Dean Weiser tour Department



From left to right: CLA Dean Irwin Weiser, Director of CRCS Fenggang Yang, Provost Timothy Sands, Department Head Bert Useem, and President France Cordova.

## DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS IN 2011

### BOOKS

J. William Spencer, *The Paradox of Youth Violence*, Lynne Rienner

Fenggang Yang, *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule*, Oxford University Press

### ARTICLES

†Graduate student author

†**Abrahamson, Kathleen**, Karl Pillemer, †**Jori Sechrist**, and **J. Jill Suitor**. "Does Race Influence Conflict between Nursing Home Staff and the Family Members of Residents?" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 66B(6)

†**Alper, Becka** and **Daniel V. A. Olson**. "Religious Geography and the Case of the Jewish Outsider." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 50(4).

**Anderson, James** with **K. Abrahamson**, M. Durham, K. Norton, B.N. Doebbeling, C.C. Doebbeling and J.G. Anderson. "Provision of Psychosocial Care for Cancer Patients: Service Delivery in Urban and Rural Settings." *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*, 2(4).

†**Bunka, Christopher**. "Economic Segregation and Charter School Accessibility." *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*, 48(2).

Carpiano, Richard M., **Brian C. Kelly**, Adam Easterbrook, and Jeffrey T Parsons. "Community and Drug Use among Gay

Men: The Role of Neighborhoods and Networks." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 52(1).

Danielle Ramo, Christian Grov, Kevin Delucchi, **Brian C. Kelly**, & Jeffrey T Parsons. "Cocaine Use Trajectories of Club Drug-Using Young Adults Recruited Using Time-Space Sampling." *Addictive Behaviors*, 36(12).

Dorius, Cassandra R., Alan Booth, **Jacob Hibel**, Douglas Granger, and David Johnson. "Parents' Testosterone and Children's Perception of Parent-Child Relationship Quality." *Hormones and Behavior*, 60(5)

**Einwohner, Rachel L.** and Thomas V. Maher. "Threat Assessment and Collective-Action Emergence: Death-Camp and Ghetto Resistance during the Holocaust." *Mobilization*, 16(2).

**Einwohner, Rachel L.** "Ethical Considerations on the Use of Archived Testimonies in Holocaust Research: Beyond the IRB Exemption." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3).

**Ferraro, Kenneth F.** and †**Karis A. Pressler.** "Do Abstinence Education Programs Influence High-School Academic Performance?" *American Journal of Health Studies*, 26(4).

Godfrey, Joseph, Bernard Grofman, and **Scott L. Feld.** "Applications of the Shapley-Owen Values and the Spatial Copeland Winner." *Political Analysis*, 19(3)

**Hogan, Richard,** "Resisting Redemption: The Republican Vote in 1876 Georgia." *Social Science History*, 35(2).

**Kelly, Brian C.** "Legally Tripping: A Qualitative Profile of Salvia Divinorum Use among Youth." *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 43(1).

**Kelly, Brian C.,** Hubert Izienicki, David S. Bimbi, and Jeffrey T. Parsons. "The Intersection of Mutual Partner Violence and Substance Use among Urban Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals." *Deviant Behavior*, 32(5).

Landerman, Lawrence R., **Sarah A. Mustillo** and Kenneth Land. "Subgroup Differences in Rate of Change over Time: The problem with Multiplicative Terms in Binary Repeated Measures Models and a New Solution." *Social Science Research*, 40(5).

**Loftus, Jeni, Brian C. Kelly,** and **Sarah A. Mustillo.** "Depressive Symptoms among Adolescent Girls in Relationships with Older Partners: Causes and Lasting Effects?" *Journal of Youth & Adolescence*, 40(7).

**Mustillo, Sarah,** H. Dorsey, and BJ Burns. "Parent Depression and Child Mental Health: The Mediating Effects of Abuse and Neglect." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 73(1).

**Olson, Daniel V. A.** and Paul Perl. "A Friend in Creed: Does the Religious Composition of Geographic Areas Affect the Religious Composition of a Person's Close Friends?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 50(3).

**Olson, Daniel V. A.** "Explanations of International Differences in Religion that May Apply to China." in Fenggang Yang and Graeme Lang, eds. *Social Scientific Studies of Religion in China: Methodology, Theories, and Findings.* Brill Academic Publishers.

**Olson, Daniel V. A.** "Towards Better Measures of Supply and Demand for Testing Theories of Religious Participation" in *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Religion* edited by Rachel McCleary. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Perrucci, Robert.** "Too Big to Fail: A Network Perspective," *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*, 48 (2).

**Miller, JoAnn.** "Presidential Address: Social Justice Work: Purpose-Driven Social Science" *Social Problems*, 58(1).

**Schafer, Markus H.** and **Kenneth F. Ferraro.** "Distal and Variably Proximal Causes: Education, Obesity, and Health." *Social Science and Medicine*, 71(9).

†**Schafer, Markus H.** and **Kenneth F. Ferraro.** "The Stigma of Obesity: Does Perceived Weight Discrimination Affect Identity and Physical Health?" *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 74(4).

†**Schafer, Markus H., Kenneth F. Ferraro,** and **Sarah A. Mustillo.** "Children of Misfortune: Early Adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories." *American Journal of Sociology*, 116(4).

†**Schafer, Markus H., Kenneth F. Ferraro,** and Sharon R. Williams. "Low Socioeconomic Status and Body Mass Index as Risk Factors for Inflammation in Older Adults: Conjoint Influence on C-Reactive Protein?" *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 66(6).

†**Sechrist, Jori, J. Jill Suitor,** Karl Pillemer, †**Gilligan Megan,** †**Abigail Howard,** and Shirley Keeton, "Aging Parents and Adult Children: Determinants of Relationship Quality." in *Handbook of Families and Aging*, edited by R. Blieszner and V. H. Bedford. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

†**Sechrist, Jori, J. Jill Suitor,** †**Nicholas Vargas,** and Karl Pillemer. "The Role of Religious Similarity in the Quality of Mother-Adult Child Relations: Differences Within Families and Between Races." *Research on Aging*, 33(1).

†**Sechrist, Jori, J. Jill Suitor,** Catherine Riffin, †**Kadari Taylor-Watson,** and Karl Pillemer, "Race and Older Mothers' Differentiation: A Sequential Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis," *Journal of Family Psychology*, 25(6).

**Suitor, Jill J.,** †**Jori Sechrist,** †**Megan Gilligan,** and Karl Pillemer. "Family Relationships in Later Life." In R. A. Settersten and J. L. Angel (Eds.), *Handbook of Sociology of Aging*, New York, NY: Springer.

**Suitor, Jill J.,** †**Megan Gilligan,** and Karl Pillemer. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Intergenerational Ambivalence in Later Life." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 66B(6).

†**Shippee, Tetyana Pylypiv, Kenneth F. Ferraro,** and Roland J. Thorpe, Jr.. "Racial Disparity in Access to Cardiac Intensive Care over 20 Years." *Ethnicity and Health*, 16(2).

**Stainback, Kevin,** Thomas N. Ratliff, and Vincent J. Roscigno. "The Organizational Context of Sex Discrimination: Sex Composition, Workplace Culture, and Relative Power." *Social Forces*, 89(4).

†Vargas, Nicholas and Matthew T. Loveland. "Befriending the "Other": Patterns of Social Ties Between the Religious and Non-Religious." *Sociological Perspectives*, 54(4).

Wasburn, Philo C. and Mara H. Wasburn. "Media Coverage of Women in Politics: The Curious Case of Sarah Palin." *Media, Culture and Society*, 33(4).

Zhang, Guanbai, Tieqiao Liu, Wei Hao, Brian C. Kelly, Jichuan Wang, Hongxing Hu, Min Zeng and Hong Liu. "Epidemiological Research on Methamphetamine Use and Its Determinants and Consequences in Changsha City." *Chinese Journal on Drug Dependence*, 20 (In Chinese)

## Degrees Awarded in 2011

### Masters

Brian Charek	Seoyoung Kim
Tyrell Connor	Mingnan Liu
Rong Fu	David Whitlock
Fan Jiang	

### Ph.D.

Angie Andriot	Elizabeth Sternke
Mary Burbrink	Mari Plikuhn
Kristen Budd	Marcus Schafer
Deborah Coe	Dan Weiss
Suzanne Macaluso	Zhilin Tang

## AWARDS BANQUET



Jeremy Dover, VP of AKD and winner of Outstanding Sociology Honors Senior Award, with Carolyn Perrucci, Director of Undergraduate Studies



Ryan Shepherd, President of AKD, and winner of Community Service Award, with Carolyn Perrucci



Maria Rooijackers, winner of Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award and current President of AKD, with Carolyn Perrucci.



Graduate Student Paper Award winners  
Nicholas Vargas and Markus Schaffer



Jan Cortner, CLA Academic Advisor,  
honored for her service to the  
students and the Department, with  
Carolyn Perrucci

## Thank you for your gift

Kimberly Baunach  
Robert Bausch  
Dr. Lois K. Cohen  
Dr. R. Paul Duncan  
Dr. Lennis G. Echterling  
Dr. Dennis W. Edwards  
Dr. Jacquelyn A. Feller  
Dianna J. Fleming  
Leslie Gum  
Terry Hancock  
Dr. John Hayes  
Dr. Violet Hover

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Judith Marten  
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Dr. Ellen Page-Robin  
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