

## Department of Sociology – Fall 2022

Happy Holidays! We hope this finds you and your family well. A lot is happening in the [Department of Sociology](#), and we hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter.



As always, we would love to hear from you! If there are any stories you would like us to share, please reach out, and we will include them in our next newsletter. Or just drop us a line just to let us know how you're doing! In the meantime, please stay connected with us on [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

Daniel Levy  
Professor and Interim Chair

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### Welcome to the Department

#### Our New Chair: Tim Liao

We are starting the new academic year with some great additions to our department. With anticipatory excitement, we are welcoming our new chair, **Professor Tim Liao**, who will be joining us in January. Tim has a wealth of administrative experience at the departmental level, having served two terms as department head at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has also provided consistent service over the past three decades to disciplinary associations and journals, notably as a former editor of *Sociological Methodology* (2009–2015) and currently a deputy editor of *Demography* and an associate editor of *Advances in Life Course Research*, as well as an editorial board member of the *American Sociological Review*.



Tim's research spans collective memory, inequality, life course, methodology and social demography. Of the many publications he is proud of, several research articles from the past 10 years are noted here. The first is Tim's 2013 [Time & Society](#) paper, which he

wrote with five undergraduate students, and defined and analyzed the meaning of social time on a university campus. It is one of two papers he has published with undergraduate students. The second is Tim's 2021 piece in [JAMA Network Open](#), coauthored with a former PhD student, which has broadened his research into health and the pandemic. Since that paper, Tim has published two more pandemic-related papers. The third is his 2021 [Socius](#) paper on income inequality and happiness, based on his research during a Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship (2017–2018) and his methodological proposal for measuring inequality at the individual level. Finally, Tim is particularly proud of this long in-press overview/review paper on sequence analysis that celebrates the 50th anniversary of [Social Science Research](#), for which he successfully coordinated a dream team of a dozen international scholars, all of whom contributed meaningfully to the paper!

Tim loves teaching, especially engaging students who love to learn. Three of his popular courses are advanced social statistics, which has attracted graduate students from multiple disciplines; social photography at both the undergraduate and graduate level, with one of these classes producing the first paper above; and publication workshop, which offers a boot camp for writing, revising and reviewing graduate student research papers with the sole purpose of getting them published.

Tim looks forward to speaking to each member of the Stony Brook Sociology faculty and the graduate student community in the spring!

### **Vanessa Delgado**

We welcome **Dr. Vanessa Delgado** as our first [IDEA Postdoctoral Fellow](#). Vanessa's research explores the incorporation pathways and educational experiences of Latino/a/x families. She employs qualitative methods to examine how Latino/a/x families navigate punitive immigration laws and policies and a restrictive socio-political climate. Drawing on in-depth interviews with Latinx young adults and their immigrant parents, Vanessa uncovers how legal status shapes how adult children of immigrants serve as language, cultural, and legal brokers for their families. Articles based on her research have been published in *Law & Policy*, *The Journal of Latinos and Education*, *Sociology Compass*, *Socius*, and *The Journal of Marriage and Family*.



## Richard Duque

We're also pleased to welcome our new full-time lecturer, **Richard Ducque, PhD**. Rick is a global scholar and educator specializing in technology, inequality, social and health risks and public policy. Over the past 15 years, he has conducted field research in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Europe and the United States. Rick's primary research has focused on how new media technologies like the internet and mobile phones have shaped global divides in terms of (1) access to knowledge and (2) the impact on identity and social networks. Most recently, his interest in technology, inequality, social and health risks, and public policy has shifted from the global to the local. Rick is working with colleagues to investigate the under-researched phenomenon of active shooters and, in general, mental health and violence in schools and the workplace. He has also collaborated with United Way on a grassroots initiative to reduce the institutional obstacles driving intergenerational minority poverty. This work contextualizes the historical intersectional disparities, including unequal access to quality healthcare and elevated exposure to environmental carcinogens, which have substantially increased COVID-19 risk among the most vulnerable people in society.



## Kelly Haller

After the retirement of longtime colleagues Wanda Vega and Sharon Worksman, we are happy to announce that **Kelly Haller** has joined us as our new academic programs coordinator. Kelly will administer and engage with our undergraduate and graduate student bodies. She has gained experience in many areas of higher education over the past 17 years. After earning her undergraduate degree in sociology and psychology from Stony Brook University, she completed an MS in counseling at NYIT in 2010. Kelly has vast experience in student accounts, career counseling and pre-health advising. She recently joined us from the pre-health advising team, where she has been advising our students for the past seven years. Kelly is looking forward to continuing her work with our undergraduate students and beginning to work with graduate students in the department. In her free time, Kelly can be found exploring Long Island with her daughter, attending concerts and traveling.



## Farewell to Norman Goodman, PhD

With great sadness, we parted from our colleague Norman (Norm) Goodman, who passed away on June 26, 2022. Norm was a founding member of the Department of Sociology, and he will be remembered for his dedication to Stony Brook University and tireless efforts. The following excerpt from an obituary captures some of the spirit he brought to the department and the university.



Admired not only for his dedication to his students and his field but also for his passion and advocacy, Goodman, a sociologically-oriented social psychologist, was the first person in SUNY to be awarded two distinguished professorships — one for service and one for teaching. He was one of the early members of the Department of Sociology and was active in shaping it from the beginning. Goodman chaired the department for 20 years (from 1973 to 1989 and again from 2000 to 2004), during which time he sought to recruit others to the department. Thanks to his years of service at Stony Brook and his active engagement in the university, Goodman advised the department based on his institutional memory and firsthand knowledge of the procedures and policies.

“During his over a half-century of leadership at Stony Brook University, Norm helped several generations of faculty, staff and students understand the importance of university governance,” said Nancy Tomes, a SUNY distinguished professor of history and University Senate president from 2018-2020. “During my term as president of the University Senate, he inspired me and challenged me to do the best job possible. Although we sometimes disagreed, we did so with a deep appreciation for the other’s point of view. Norm was my mentor and my friend. I will miss him greatly.”

Norm was a very bright, caring and loyal mentor and colleague. He was loyal to his three children, loyal to his wife, Marilyn, even as her health declined, loyal to the New York Mets even during their heartbreaking years, loyal to his students, his friends, and his colleagues, loyal to the Seawolves even when they were not competitive, and, importantly, loyal to Stony Brook where his tenure here was among the longest of any professor.

In dedication to Stony Brook University and the Department of Sociology, Dr. Goodman has generously bequeathed funds to create the Norman ‘Norm’ Goodman Endowment Excellence Award in Sociology, which will provide annual \$1,000 cash awards for one undergraduate and one graduate student in Sociology who “demonstrates high academic

achievement as defined by Stony Brook policy...[and] who demonstrates achievement, experience or commitment to academic excellence, leadership or community service.”

We shall miss Norm and are grateful for all the work he did for us. [Click here to read more](#) about Norm’s legacy.

### **Faculty News and Notes**

The research output of our faculty and graduate students persists, ensuring widespread recognition amongst our peers and far beyond. The list is too long to provide synopses for each, but feel free to contact the authors if you are interested in their research or any of their respective publications. Aside from the substantive contributions, these research articles make to their respective fields, I also want to point out the high degree of collaboration members of the department are engaging in (see highlighted names).

**Dr. Vanessa Delgado’s** recent publications include:

- “Family formation under the law: How immigration laws construct contemporary Latino/a immigrant families in the U.S.” *Sociology Compass*. (online first)
- “Leveraging Protections, Navigating Punishments: How Adult Children of Undocumented Immigrants Mediate Illegality in Latinx Families” *Journal of Marriage and Family* (online first)
- “Can Universities Counteract Immigrant Illegality? Examining the Role of University-Based Institutional Support on Californian Undocumented College Students’ Experiences” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 8, 1-13.

Vanessa is also the recipient of two awards and two honorable mentions:

- Winner of the 2022 Cristina Maria Riegos Student Paper Award, ASA Latino/a Sociology Section
- Winner of the 2022 Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Student Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
- Honorable Mention for 2022 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Family Section
- Honorable Mention for 2022 ASA Section on Aging and Life Course Graduate Student Paper Award

**Assistant Professor Yongjun Zhang's** collaborations (with colleagues from our department and others) have yielded the following recent publications:

- Yongjun Zhang and **Jennifer Heerwig**. "Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in Campaign Cash to the U.S. Congress, 1990-2014." *Socius*.
- Xinguang Fan and Yongjun Zhang. "Just Virus or Politicized Virus? An Analysis of over 13 Million Global Web News of China on COVID-19." *Chinese Sociological Review*.
- Yongjun Zhang, **Sienna Thorgusen**, and Xinguang Fan. "News Coverage of Social Protests in Global Society." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*.
- **Hao Lin**, Pradeep Nalluri, Lantian Li, Yifan Sun, and Yongjun Zhang. 2022. "Multiplex Anti-Asian Sentiment before and during the Pandemic: Introducing New Datasets from Twitter Mining." 12th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment Social Media Analysis.

Prof. Zhang also received two grants:

- SBU Provostial Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Work in Creative Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Co-PI with Susu Xu and Shan Lin on the project "Reasoning and Mitigating Community Disparity-induced Social-technical Biases for Equitable Road Maintenance."
- FAHSS research grant from SBU. PI with **Jennifer Heerwig** on the project "Big Data for Political Good."

**Associate Professor Rebekah Burroway** also collaborated with department members, yielding several important publications:

- Sommer, Jamie, Rebekah Burroway, and **John Shandra**. Forthcoming. "Defend Women's Rights and Save the Trees: A Cross-National Analysis of Women's Immovable Property Rights and Forest Loss." *Population and Environment*
- **Shorette, Kristen**, and Rebekah Burroway. 2022. "Consistencies and Contradictions: Revisiting the Relationship Between Women's Education and Infant Mortality From a Distributional Perspective." *Social Science Research* 105: 1-13.

**Assistant Professor Kristen Shorette** published:

- “The Rise of Market Approaches to Social Problems: The Case of Fair Trade and its Uneven Expansion across the Global South.” *International Journal of Sociology* 52(1): 1 – 24.
- Shorette, Kristen, Megan Thiele, and Catherine Bolzendahl. 2021. “Degrees of Support: State Spending on Higher Education and Public Post-Secondary Degrees Across State Legislatures, 2005 and 2014.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 7: 1 – 11.

Kristen was also recognized for her teaching and mentorship acumen receiving the “Teaching and Mentorship Award, Environmental Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.”

**Professor John Shandra’s** collaboration with former students and now colleagues yielded the following publications:

- Sommer, Jamie M., Restivo, Michael, and John M. Shandra. 2022. “Corrupting Ecologically Unequal Exchange? India and Forest Loss in a Cross-National Perspective.” *Socius* 8.
- Tasmim, Samia, Sommer, Jamie M., and John M. Shandra. 2022. “Feed Me! China, Agriculture, Ecologically Unequal Exchange, and Forest Loss in a Cross-National Perspective.” *Environmental Policy and Governance* 32: 47-64.

### **Graduate Student News and Notes**

- **Jessica Kim, PhD** received a prestigious two-year post-doc at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), (Social Science Center Berlin).
- **Duygu Alpan** received the *Judith Tanur Dissertation Fellowship Award* in 2022. This award is presented each summer to a PhD candidate in the research or writing phases of their doctoral dissertation.

Duygu also received the *GSO Distinguished Travel Award (DTA)* in the spring of 2022. DTA is designed to support graduate students who present their work at prestigious conferences, performances, and professional meetings that will contribute to and build the national and international reputation of their department and the university.

- **Ida Nikou** received the GSO Distinguished Travel Award (DTA) in the Spring of 2022.

Ida also received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student.

- **W. Rafferty Thompson** received Stony Brook Sociology's 2022 *David Street Award* for best qualitative and/or theory graduate student paper.
- **Sam Shirazi** received a Stony Brook Presidential Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Fall 2022.
- **Hao Lin** received the highly competitive Junior Research Award for AY2022-2023 from the [Institute for Advanced Computational Science](#) (IACS).
- **Danial Vahabli** received the Graduate Fellowship of the Institute for Advanced Computational Sciences upon entry into the program.
- **Dana McIntyre** was accepted as a participant in the *Teachers Becoming Learners of Cultural & Linguistic Diversity in Ghana*, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, 2022

## Updates

We're pleased to share so much from our exciting Fall semester, part of which relates to our burgeoning minor in [Health, Medicine and Society](#), designed as part of our department's global focus. Starting in the fall of 2018, the minor was purposefully designed to be interdisciplinary, requiring students to take courses outside sociology from areas such as psychology, history, biology, and environmental studies. The minor is thematic and important to meeting the academic and intellectual needs of the SBU student body. Moreover, the minor is an excellent way for faculty to help prepare students for the graduate and professional tracks many will pursue beyond graduation.

The response to this minor has been rather dramatic in terms of its growth — we currently have nearly 500 minors. Many of our minors are Sociology majors, but most come to us from the Biology and Psychology programs, two of the largest majors at SBU. These students, from all majors, have truly brought incredible heft and vibrancy to our deliberate interdisciplinary approach to health care.

Finally, the Sociology major has been responsive to the changing issues facing future healthcare providers and consumers. In this way, the minor program regularly adds course options from other disciplines each year.

Given the strength of the health minor, we are particularly pleased that we got approval to hire an assistant professor in the field of global health.

## **Events**

As usual, various intellectual activities are going on in the department. In addition to reading and (thematic) discussion groups, we will continue our colloquia series, which, beginning in Fall 2022 became dedicated to the global health theme (check our [website](#) for upcoming detailed announcements).

Last but not least, we would like to thank all of our donors who have supported us during Giving Day, through the [Sociology Fund for Excellence](#) and the other scholarships we now have in the department. Your generosity has been significantly helpful in financially supporting our graduate students' summer research programs. With the high cost of living on Long Island, many of our students work second jobs, which often leads them to delay their research. If you are interested in learning how to support our students and programs, please contact [Chris Scarpati](#), director of development, at 631.632.1202.

As always, we enjoy hearing from all of you. If there are any stories you would like us to share, please reach out to me, and we will include them in our next newsletter. In the meantime, please stay connected with us on [Twitter](#).

Wishing you all the best,



Daniel Levy, Professor and Interim Chair

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