

BEYOND “DOING GOOD:” SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY BUILDING

2019 Annual Meeting
of the
Georgia Sociological Association



November 7 – 9
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
Jekyll Island, Georgia

Georgia Sociological Association

2018-2019 Officers and Executive Committee

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Letter from GSA President Carly L. Redding

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Sociological Association in the charming Historic District of Jekyll Island. We have an exciting program in store for everyone this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GSA Executive Board for their assistance and support in making this conference possible. I feel exceptionally lucky to be a part of this board and the GSA community.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Beyond 'Doing Good': Social Scientific Approaches to Community Building." I would like us to focus on the meaning of community and community development. This includes a focus on the importance of social change in an era of globalization, informed by a knowledge of community development, rights and moral responsibility. In addition, we should consider how this may enable sociologists and other scholars to address the intractable problems facing citizens and communities. The importance of the concept of community development for sociology resides in part in its integrative, bridging potential. It focuses concurrently on marginalized or oppressed individuals and the environments that affect their lives, and encompasses multiple levels of analysis. Specifically, this practice seeks to empower community settings that are distinctive in their potential to simultaneously contribute to individual development, community development, and positive social change. It is my hope that over the next few days we have the opportunity to come together and have meaningful, thoughtful discussions about these issues.

I would like to focus your attention on one very special event we have planned this year. The GSA Executive Board was honored to present the GSA Sociologist of the Year to Dr. Melvyn Fein earlier this year. Please join us at the business lunch and awards ceremony on Friday to remember Mel and hear Dr. Ned Rinalducci's memorial "An Academic's Legacy: What We Leave Behind-A Tribute to Mel Fein."

Mel will be greatly missed, and the GSA will not be the same without him!

Thank you for joining us this year. While attending the conference please take advantage of this historic and beautiful Island.

Sincerely,

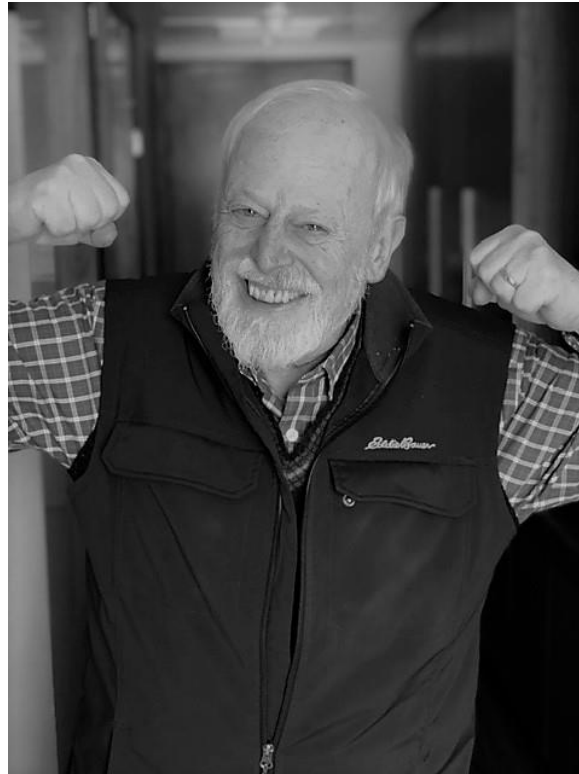
Carly L. Redding



Georgia Sociological Association's

2019 SOCIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

Dr. Melvyn Fein



GSA Plenary Keynote Speaker

Ned Rinalducci

will help us celebrate the life of our friend Mel

Club Ballroom, Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Program Schedule

Thursday 12:00 pm

12:00 – 1:30

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

PULITZER

Thursday 1:30 pm

1:30 – 6:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

BALLROOM PARLOR

1:30 – 2:30 JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

ASPINWALL

1:30 – 2:30 BOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

PULITZER

Thursday 2:30 – 3:45 pm

Session 1

DUBIGNON

ANNUAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP

So you want to be a researcher? Exploring your best pathway through the mentor/mentee process

Moderator: Pamela Pitman Brown, *Albany State University*, pamelapitmanbrownphd@gmail.com

Panelists: Wendell Johnson, *Kennesaw State University*;
Jason Armstrong, *Albany State University*;
Shannon Mathews, *Savannah State University*;
Mark Thomas, *Albany State University*

This panel presentation is focused on two groups of participants:

- students who wish to get into research with faculty, and
- faculty who would like to begin/extend their role as a research mentor.

The focus for the students will be moving into the role of a researcher as an undergraduate or graduate student, with explanations on how the mentorship role works in higher education as well as how your coursework can bring you to the attention of the future mentor. For faculty, the focus will be how to be a brilliant and successful mentor, assisting your students along the path of the mentor/mentee relationship. Additionally, the panel will share their previous student research experiences, whether classroom based, community research, qualitative/quantitative, exploratory or literature reviews.

Thursday 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Session 2

DUBIGNON

HANS MAUKSCH TEACHING WORKSHOP

Working with Sociology Honor Students

Moderator: Christina Wolfe, *Georgia Highlands College*, cwolfe@highlands.edu

Panelists: Alison Hatch, *University of Colorado-Boulder*, Alison.Hatch@colorado.edu
Michallene McDaniel, *University of North Georgia*, michallene.mcdaniel@ung.edu

This year's Hans Mauksch Teaching Workshop focuses on working with honors students in sociology. For students majoring in sociology, honors work is an opportunity to expand their understanding of the discipline and prepare themselves for future graduate studies or professional work. For students in other majors, honors work in sociology allows them to make deeper connections between their coursework and their chosen field. Faculty working with honors students in sociology courses have the opportunity to expand the context of student education to promote breadth, diversity, and depth within students' academic careers. However, it can often be daunting for faculty to know how to begin this valuable and fulfilling work. Panelists will discuss best practices in sociology honors education, honors-specific pedagogies, and experiences teaching and developing honors-designated courses and individualized honors projects.

Everyone is welcome to attend and contribute to this discussion.

Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 pm

WELCOME RECEPTION (HORS D'OEUVRES AND CASH BAR)

VERANDA

Friday 8:00 am

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (ALL DAY)

BALLROOM PARLOR

COFFEE, PASTRIES & FRUIT (UNTIL 9:30)

Friday 8:00 – 9:15 am

SESSION 3

ALDRICH

Panel – We All Work Together to Make it Better: Community Building Across Local, National, and International Fronts

Organizer: Karen Young, *Clayton State University*, KarenYoung@clayton.edu

“Doing Something Good; Making Something Right”- Sociologists partner with students to build meaningful community relationships with black expatriates in an international setting.

Panelists:

D. Brian Mann, *University of North Georgia*, D.Brian.Mann@ung.edu

“Ecoute-Radio: Building Student Learning Communities” – how one creative educator helps students to develop listening skills in a cooperative environment using “public text” and “private text” to build “community text”.

Jeannie Detar, *Clayton State University*, jdetar@student.clayton.edu

“Sharing the Journey Lightens the Load” – With the help of government grants, educators, non-profits and local municipalities partner together to build subsidized housing complexes for senior citizens.

SESSION 4

DUBIGNON

Theme – Theory Matters

Moderator: Darina Lepadatu, *Kennesaw State University*

The Sociology of Shaming

Roger Bates, *Clayton State University*, Rodgerbates@clayton.edu

Bryan LaBrecque, *Clayton State University*, BryanLaBrecque@clayton.edu

Shaming is a form of social control found in every society. It is an informal mechanism that is often found in traditional societies or small, personal groups. The power of shaming traditionally is related to a person’s sense self as reflected by his or her interpretation of the acts of others. Today, in the emerging environment of the global village, shaming has evolved from an expanded form personal to a collective mechanism of influence and social control. In fact, what was once a mechanism of conformity has become a potential tool for change.

The Optimism, Pessimism and Realism of Youth Entrepreneurs in a Developing Country

Donna Danns, *University of North Georgia*, donna.danns@ung.edu

George Danns, *University of North Georgia*, george.danns@ung.edu

Scholars have attributed optimism as a primary reason why entrepreneurs are generally disposed to start up business ventures, endure their many challenges, achieve entrepreneurial successes and persist despite business failures. Youth entrepreneurship has however, not been the focus of the scholarship on optimism and entrepreneurship. This paper is specifically concerned with an analysis of the challenges faced by and perceived optimism of youth entrepreneurs in the developing country of Guyana. It is argued that the constructs of optimism and pessimism are a duality and that the consideration of one is better understood in relation to the other in the

analysis of the entrepreneur in society. We postulate an *Entrepreneur Optimism – Pessimism Continuum Model*. Four hypotheses are derived and tested.

Apple Inc. In China: Between Human Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility

Catherine Dietsch, *Kennesaw State University*, cdietsc1@kennesaw.edu

Darina Lepadatu, *Kennesaw State University*, dlepadat@kennesaw.edu

This paper falls under the umbrella of Sociology of Organizations and Global Sociology. Using Wallerstein's world system theory, which suggests that there is a world economic system where some countries thrive on the exploitation of other countries, I will analyze the case study of Apple's impact on China. The idea is to reflect on how western multinational companies with activities in emerging economies, reconcile their commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility policies, adherence to Human Rights principles, and other universal values.

Student Veteran Transition Theories: How Three Variants of Symbolic Interaction Theory Explain Successful Transition Strategies

Aaron Frost, *Kennesaw State University*, afrost11@students.kennesaw.edu

Military members experience difficulties transitioning to civilian life, with many student veterans reporting identity issues, social isolation, autonomous learning confusion, Traumatic Brain Injury, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, and depression. Issues cause student veterans to fail or withdraw from courses, and Post-9/11 GI Bill time limits prevent veteran degree completion. Symbolic interaction theory offers veterans coursework completion solutions for earning degrees. This paper contrasts labeling, dramaturgical, and Bourdieusian transition approaches, revealing insights. Bourdieusian claims reveal veteran issues accurately; dynamic habitus and field modification encompass circumstances more astutely than other theories. Growing portions of American military veterans apply tuition assistance to enroll at universities. Unresolved mental health issues and inconsistent aid networks leave veterans vulnerable to increasing psychopathy. Universities concerned with retention rates and graduation percentages need empirical approaches to help prevent drop-out. This research presents a critical step toward guiding future research in this area.

SESSION 5

FEDERAL RESERVE

Theme – Sociological Assortment

Moderator: Melinda Johnson, *Emory University*, melinda.dawn.johnson@emory.edu

Online Dating, Trust, & Scamming

Richard Newton, *Columbus State University*, newton_richard@columbusstate.edu

Amanda Hilderbrand, *Columbus State University*, hilderbrand_amanda@columbusstate.edu

Vy Thuc Dao, *Columbus State University*, dao_vy@columbusstate.edu

Today, it is argued that online dating results in an all too fast over-sharing of personal information. As one author put it, "Like the steady work of the wrecking ball, our culture's nearly-compulsive demand for personal revelation, emotional exposure, and sharing of feelings" threatens newly-forming relationships (Rosen, 2004). The idea is that transparency early in a relationship is potentially destructive to the new relationship because we are in a hurry to develop some type of connection with someone we perceive to be a potential dating partner. Getting to know a potential romantic partner online fulfills a rapid need to know as much as possible about that person and with that comes a rapid development of trust. But is it misplaced? The present study investigated how rapidly trust had entered into an online relationship and the degree that the aforementioned respondents felt they had been lied to or misled in the exchange.

Opting Out, Reclassification, or Conservatism: How the Media Portrays the Choice to Homeschool

Rebecca Nees, *Middle Georgia State University*, Rebecca.nees@mga.edu

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (2017), the number of US children being homeschooled has doubled since 1999. Has this increase in homeschooling affected the media coverage of those who homeschool? Using a content analysis of articles from newspapers in the US, this preliminary study will explore the media coverage of homeschoolers in the last 5 years as compared to the results of Lyman's (1999) content analysis of media coverage of homeschooling from 1985-1996.

Implementing C. Wright Mills' Sociological Imagination in Empirical Research: A Case Study

Roscoe Scarborough, *College of Coastal Georgia*, rscarborough@ccga.edu

C. Wright Mills' "sociological imagination" can be applied in sociological research to address real-world social problems. My participant observation and interview research on discriminatory behavior among firefighters provides a case study for utilizing Mills' framework in research. Firefighters harbor individual prejudices, which persist in a state of tension with a fire service culture that valorizes a community orientation and a public service ethos. Though individual prejudice emerges in jokes and "firehouse talk" around the firehouse, these biases are suppressed on the fireground. Deep integration into an institutional culture of public service can mitigate discriminatory behavior. This suggests that a psychological, individualistic focus on overt prejudice and implicit biases does not account for the impact of social context or organizational culture. Instead of evaluating discrimination among first responders as a personal trouble, bias and its associated dysfunctions can be reframed as a public issue to be ameliorated through cultural reform.

Mixed-Status Couples and the Journey with the Legal System

Danshanique Adkins, *Georgia Southern University*, da04894@georgiasouthern.edu

This qualitative study adds to the lack of research on immigration representation and examines the determinants, consequences, and prevalence of immigration legal service negligence and misconduct. The stratification of legal counsel is a major theme for this research. Previous research has focused on undocumented individuals and their journey to the United States, but little research has examined the lack of legal representation and the scams they are subject to by individuals giving the misconception that they're immigration lawyers. To bring more attention to this problem, a qualitative study was conducted that includes semi-structured in-depth interviews with mixed-status couples (i.e. undocumented Latinos/as married or partnered with U.S. citizens). This research project will examine existing literature concerning the experience of undocumented and documented individuals and their struggles with the legal system. Original data collected through interviews, with documented individuals who have been in this situation, will also be presented in the research.

Friday 9:30 – 10:45 am

SESSION 6

ALDRICH

Theme – *Sociology of Health*

Moderator: Linda Treiber, *Kennesaw State University*, ltreiber@kennesaw.edu

Staying together and Staying Alive: How Social Network Fallout is related to Changes in Disability Status

George Usamov, *Georgia State University*, gusmanov1@gsu.edu

Raeda Anderson, *Georgia State University*, randerson39@gsu.edu

This study examines the relationship between social connections lost over time and physical disability for older adults. While previous literature has found that physical disability is a predictor for future social interaction, limited literature has examined the reciprocal of how social interaction is a predictor for future disability status. In this study we examine personal social network dynamics for changes in social network structure and composition as a predictor for future physical disability status. To complete this analysis, we use nationally representative ego network data of community dwelling older adults contained within the two most recent waves of the National, Social, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP).

Differential Birth Outcomes for African American Women

Justice Mohone, *Georgia Southern University*, jm18256@georgiasouthern.edu

Recent research has found that African American women have a higher infant mortality rate than White women in the U.S. Individuals who do not identify as White have worse health outcomes than individuals who do. According to Lorenz, it is difficult for many low-income African American women to afford good quality health care; This may contribute to the risk of having preterm birth (PTB). However, even well-educated African American women with a high socioeconomic status are at a high risk of preterm labor and infant mortality. The stress of simply being African American in the U.S. may limit women from having a healthy full-term pregnancy. Gavin suggests the effects of gender and racism of college educated women combined can produce stress which ultimately results in more negative birth outcomes for African American children (2018). Using a health equity lens, this qualitative study examines 25 most popular articles written since 2015 in the *Washington Post*.

Latino Access to Healthcare in Response to Recent U.S. Immigration Policies

Carrie Leon, *University of North Georgia*, carrieeleon17@gmail.com

The social issue of lack of access to healthcare in the United States affects millions each year, but the racial/ ethnic group being most impacted by this issue is Latinos. Many explanations can be utilized to give reason for this finding, but one of particular interest is the way in which fear, promoted by recent immigration legislation and policies, contribute to Latinos' access to healthcare or their reluctance to seeking it. Negative stereotypes and "Latino Immigrant Threat" rhetoric help in the creation and maintaining of immigration legislation that not only prevent undocumented and documented Latinos from accessing healthcare, but Latino citizens as well. Following the review of several collections of data, works and sociological concepts such as "System Avoidance" by Sarah Bryne, it can be theorized that these laws are negatively impacting access to healthcare, health, and lives of Latinos and will continue to do so under current political environment.

A Smile Is Worth A Thousand Words: Individual versus Structural Explanations of Visible Dental Decay among Undergraduate Students in the United States

Alicia Cumberlander, *Georgia Southern University*, ac11579@georgiasouthern.edu

What do people in the U.S. constitute as "bad teeth" and "good teeth", and how do they explain why some people have visible dental decay, while others do not? Do these explanations change due to our social location? To answer these questions, we use data from a 147-undergraduate sampled paper survey collected at a large, public 4-year institution in the Southeast region of the United States. Qualitative results show that people in the U.S. constitute "bad teeth" as discolored and misaligned. Quantitative findings indicate, there is little significance between participants' social location and how they attribute poor oral with the exception to gender and political affiliation. Based on findings, females are more likely to attribute poor oral health to structural factors, while conservatives are more likely to attribute poor oral health to individual factors. We conclude by discussing the implications of these findings for healthcare policy support.

Theme – Issues of Race

Moderator: Anne Borden, *Western Governors University*, anne.borden@wgu.edu

Framing the Civil Rights Movement

Nayjha Harris, *Georgia Southern University*, nh02638@georgiasouthern.edu

The Civil Rights Movement surfaced with the purpose of obtaining constitutional and legal rights for African Americans. After the Civil War, African Americans were supposed to be granted equal rights through the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments, but this was counteracted in the southern states through a system known as the Jim Crow Laws. The Jim Crow Laws segregated the races and denied opportunities to African Americans. I decided to do research on the Civil Rights Movement because I wanted to learn more about it from a sociological standpoint. In my research, I analyze the framing processes involved in the Civil Rights Movement. In this research, I look to see if diagnostic framing, motivational framing, prognostic framing, frame articulation, and/or frame elaboration play a role in the Civil Rights Movement, and if so, how they play those roles and how it affects the movement.

An Investigation into the Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System, Housing, Employment and Education: What Can We Do About It in Georgia?

Leandra Girma, *Kennesaw State University*, lgirma@students.kennesaw.edu

Devin Johnson, *Kennesaw State University*, djohn589@students.kennesaw.edu

Kaci Gilmer, *Kennesaw State University*, kgilmer1@students.kennesaw.edu

Michael Kennedy, *Kennesaw State University*, mkenne31@students.kennesaw.edu

Our study will use existing statistics to describe the racial disparities in the criminal justice system, housing, employment and education in the state of Georgia. In addition, the research team will conduct in-depth interviews with 10-15 experts, professionals and government officials to explain the causes and consequences of these racial disparities. Our research questions are the following: How big are the racial disparities in Georgia? What are the factors that lead to racial disparities in the criminal justice system, housing, employment and education? How can the racial disparities be reduced in Georgia? Why is there such a lack of opportunity and equality in schools? Why are a lot of Georgia's neighborhoods still impoverished and racially segregated in 2019? Why are these same patterns in the Georgia's neighborhoods seen in the workforce?

Perceptions of African American College Women: STD/STI Health Risk Behaviors Among African American Women

Dashawna Anderson, *Georgia Southern University*, da02271@georgiasouthern.edu

Sexually transmitted disease/infection (STD/STI) rates are on the rise for African American women. Recent literature argues that African American women have a lack of education concerning STDs/STIs. Research within STDs/STIs has focused on quantitative data such as, the racial inequality; it suggests that White Americans are more likely to use more protective methods than African Americans. Little research has been conducted qualitatively to gain the perceptions people have on this issue. To fill this gap, a health equity lens was used and in-depth interviews were conducted with 10 college-aged, African American women to gain their perceptions about the risk behaviors that cause STDs/STIs among the African American female population. The overarching theme found was that African American women's lack of knowledge on STDs/STIs and medical check-ups was the reason for the disproportionate rates among African American women compared to the American population.

Set Trippin': An Intersectional Examination of Gang Members

Lea Marzo, *Georgia State University*, lmarzo1@student.gsu.edu

Research on gang membership often ignores critical intersections of sexuality, gender, class, and race. I seek to bridge the gap the raced and gendered experiences of Black and nonblack Latinx and

Asian gang members, especially women whose experiences are often overlooked. Utilizing a feminist approach, I will examine how gender performances are influenced by gang membership and how members and their associates construct their identities. Preliminary findings suggest that gang members experience significant adolescent trauma; membership for women is familial, not based on friendship groups; there is a duality between “gang members” and gang bangers”; and men who feel nonthreatened and safe tend to exhibit healthy masculinity. I argue that this research debunks the narrative that gang members display inherent criminal behavior. Instead, I provide a counternarrative that humanizes gang members and adds validity to the structural causes of gang membership in these communities.

SESSION 8

FEDERAL RESERVE

Theme – Gender and Sexuality

Moderator: Michallene McDaniel, *University of North Georgia*, michallene.mcdaniel@ung.edu

Little Girls and the Players They Break: Classic Rock and Gender

Kelley Pointer, *University of North Georgia*, kepoim8597@ung.edu

Through the lyrical analysis of classic rock songs in regards to gender, there are central themes that are conveyed to the listener regarding gender and heterosexuality that have continued the enforcement of the gender dynamic between men and women in relationships with one another, including teaching men what type of masculinity they should strive to emulate and women what they should believe is expected of them in relationships with men. Men and women both learn who are the expected passive and active agents in the relationship, along with the harmful notion that male sexuality is uncontrollable, a notion that further contributes to rape culture to this day.

Women Empowerment in Music: A Content Analysis of the Billboard Hot 100

Jamekia Collins, *Georgia Southern University*, jc14883@georgiasouthern.edu

The purpose of this study is to examine themes of women’s empowerment in songs made about women charted on the Billboard Hot 100 in the year 2018. Prior research has focused on the detrimental effects that song lyrics can have on women through ways of stereotypes, especially rap song lyrics. I chose this year because of the impact of the #MeTooMovement in the latter portion of 2017, which was a social movement against sexual assault and harassment. It had a tremendous effect on social media and everyday lives. For the purpose of this study, I conducted a qualitative content analysis of overt women-centered lyrics and coded for themes of women empowerment from the view of standpoint theory and intersectional feminism. I will code for things such as financial empowerment, leaving relationships, and body positivity. I will discuss how these lyrics embody themes of women empowerment using line by line coding.

Heteronormative influence within the Black Lesbian Community

Akalah Favors, *Georgia Southern University*, af06658@georgiasouthern.edu

Scholars point out that more attention must be paid to the experiences of the Black Lesbian community (Reed et al. 2011; Walsh, 2016). Moore and Stambolis-Ruhstorfer (2013, p. 503) ask researchers to, “rethink how we address the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality” among Black Lesbians. The purpose of this literature review is to place the experiences of Black Queer women at the center of analysis and to challenge stereotypical depictions of femininity and masculinity.

Not Always Rainbows and Sunshine: Exploring Discrimination Experiences of LGBT+ Americans

Samantha Finn, *Georgia Southern University*, sfo4228@georgiastate.edu

Imagine losing a job or rights to your child because of who you love. Imagine being denied proper health care services and information because of your gender, or gender identity. For some Americans, this is not hard to picture because it is the life they live. The purpose of this literature review is to outline the types of discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and other non-straight or cis-gendered (LGBT+) individuals. I found that researchers agree that children and youth whose identities are correlated to LGBT+, either by being or having familial connections to LGBT+ individuals, face a different life than children and youth whose identities are not correlated to LGBT+. In addition to LGBT+ children, adults LGBT+ individuals in the American workforce face discrimination. Finally, I found that race/ethnic groups, political parties and religion had an influence on seeing or believing in discrimination.

Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION

CLUB BALLROOM

An Academic's Legacy: What We Leave Behind - A Tribute to Mel Fein

Ned Rinalducci, *Georgia Southern University*, erinalducci@georgiasouthern.edu

As academics, we touch so many lives, so many organizations, and so many institutions that the size of our footprints is often hard to measure. The average professor teaches anywhere from dozens to hundreds of students each year, making impressions, shaping minds, and occasionally having a real profound impact on students. This is perhaps our greatest legacy, but it is not our only one. Depending on where we are employed, we are likely involved in research and service as well. Our research can change the way scholars and laypeople alike see issues and interpret the world. Our service to our institutions, organizations, and communities can have a lasting impact. This talk will focus on the legacy that we, as academics, leave behind. 2019 Georgia Sociologist of the Year, Dr. Mel Fein was professor at Kennesaw State University for thirty years, and active in the Georgia Sociological Association for most of that time. He left us in August of this year, but he is the perfect example of an academic with footprints larger than he imagined. Through his decades of work with students at KSU, his substantial list of publications, and his work with organizations like the Georgia Sociological Association, Mel achieved what many aspire to, a legacy that will outlive us and continue to impact people for a long time to come.

Friday 12:15 – 1:15 pm

BUSINESS LUNCH & AWARDS CEREMONY

GRAND DINING ROOM

Friday 1:45 – 3:00 pm

SESSION 9

ALDRICH

Panel – Conducting Multidisciplinary Research on Racial Emotions with Undergraduate Students in a Predominantly White Institution (PWI)

Organizer: Ravi Ghadge, Kennesaw State University, rghadge@kennesaw.edu

Panelists:

Katherine White, *Kennesaw State University*, kwhit162@kennesaw.edu
Richard Mosholder, *Kennesaw State University*, rmoshold@kennesaw.edu
Jasmine Davis, *Kennesaw State University*, jdavi542@students.kennesaw.edu
Kaelyn Ireland, *Kennesaw State University*, kirelan2@students.kennesaw.edu
Daniela Ordonez, *Kennesaw State University*, dgonza43@students.kennesaw.edu

Participants in this panel will share their experiences of conducting collaborative multidisciplinary research involving faculty members and undergraduate students. By exploring how race organizes our emotional world, their research aims for a holistic understanding of race relations that creates a space for a more inclusive racial dialogue at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). The undergraduate students will discuss their transformative experiences of using qualitative methods of data collection (focus group interviews) and grounded theoretical analysis. The panelists will also discuss the merits and best practices of conducting multidisciplinary research involving diverse perspectives from sociology, psychology, and education.

SESSION 10

DUBIGNON

Theme – College, Teaching, and Students

Moderator: Donald Gregory, *Reinhardt University*, dg2@reinhardt.edu

Podcasting and the Professor: Creating Learning Communities with Instructor or Student Produced Podcasts

Vy Thuc Dao, *Columbus State University*, dao_vy@columbusstate.edu

The use of media, social media, and technology in the university classroom is now a routine practice for eliciting student engagement and learning. The reliance on interactive presentations, student's cell phones as clickers, and instructors housing content on online learning platforms is now standard and practical pedagogy. And increasingly, the popularity, variety, and versatility of podcasts have encouraged instructors to routinely assign podcasts to facilitate content learning across most disciplines. However, podcasts have the potential to become more than adjunctive materials. This paper presents the integration of podcast production in an upper level sociology course with a review of developing content, instructing students, acquiring equipment, and preliminary discussions on the theoretical and practical application of podcast production in teaching sociology.

Georgia College Students' Perception of the Confederate Battle Symbol: An Update

Donald Gregory, *Reinhardt University*, dg2@reinhardt.edu

I will present preliminary findings from the 2019 survey of Georgia College students regarding their perceptions are the confederate battle flag symbol and relate these findings to previous year's results.

Teaching and Engaging Students in a Public Sociology Program on Gentrification

Leonard A. Steverson, *South Georgia State College, Flagler College*, lsteverson@flagler.edu

Jennifer E. Melvin, *Flagler College*, JMelvin@flagler.edu

This paper describes a public sociology project in which students at Flagler College will be enlisted to conduct research on the gentrifying community of Lincolnville in St. Augustine, Florida. The theoretical and research perspectives that will be used to guide the project are supplied by the urban sociological methodology of the Chicago School of Sociology from the early twentieth century. The objectives of the Lincolnville project are to enlist and train interested students in producing new knowledge in the phenomena of gentrification on a local level, to enrich student knowledge of theory and research, to use service learning to explain the subfield known as public sociology, and to disseminate this information to various publics such as community leaders, in the hope of informing planning and policy that seeks to revitalize neighborhoods without displacing marginalized subpopulations.

SESSION 11

FEDERAL RESERVE

Theme – Issues of Aging

Moderator: Jeffrey Lentz, *University of North Georgia*, jeffrey.lentz@ung.edu

When Can We Get Old? Political Pressures, Cultural Constructs and Intersectional Effects in the Evolution of Media-Driven Portrayals of Old Age

Cristina Stephens, *Kennesaw State University*, cgheorgh@kennesaw.edu

Jidea Flahnma, *Kennesaw State University*

This paper examines the evolution of old age portrayal in the media by discussing cohort-driven expectations of elderly appearance, behavior and values. Drawing on the race/class/gender intersectionality theory, we discuss positive and negative consequences of increasingly optimistic media depictions of old age and the public's behavioral reactions to media-driven social constructions of aging. Finally, we argue that cultural, socio-economic and political pressures to redefine old age at increasingly advanced life course stages, can have a disproportionate negative impact on groups affected by the growing socio-economic inequality of Western societies.

When Do Birds of a Feather Stop Flocking Together?: Social Network Make-Up of Older Adults with Poor Mental Health

George Usmanov, *Georgia State University*, gusmanov1@student.gsu.edu

I examine the personal social networks of older adults in relation to sociodemographic attributes across mental health statuses. Specifically, I examine the relationship between older adults' mental health and the common characteristics of their closest social connections. Analysis is completed through the use of social network measures of homophily and homogeneity. This study highlights the role that personal social networks have for older adults' mental health outcomes, thus informing the important role of social interaction for mental health. Analysis for this presentation is completed using the ego networks contained within the nationally representative 3rd wave of data from the National, Social, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP).

This Is For Now But Is It Forever? Examination Static and Dynamic Physical Disability Statuses Over 15 Years

Raeda Anderson, *Georgia State University*, randerson39@gsu.edu

For older adults, becoming physically disabled is often seen as both normative and permanent. Older adults can, however, fluctuate between periods of having a disability and not having a disability. I examine the differences in demographic characteristics of older adults who have static disability statuses and those with dynamic disability statuses. To complete this analysis, I use nationally representative data of community dwelling older adults contained within all three waves

of panel data from the National, Social, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP). Analysis is completed with a logistic regression.

Georgia's Aging Inmate Population: Balancing Justice, Budgets, and Moral Responsibility
Brenda Beach, *Purdue Global University*, bbeach@purdueglobal.edu

The aging inmate population continues to grow as violent offenders are sentenced to life in prison at rates higher than that the overall prison release rate. The special needs of aging inmates create fiscal and logistical challenges related to providing medical treatment in a setting that was not designed to provide care for aging chronically ill patients or to accommodate the physical challenges of the elderly. Additionally, the humane treatment of violent criminals at the end of life is expected to create a blurring of prison staff roles as correctional duties expand to include caregiver responsibilities for elderly inmates. The proposed presentation will explore the current and planned strategies for meeting the challenges presented by the presence of elderly communities within Georgia's prisons.

Friday 3:00 – 3:30 pm

BREAK

Friday 3:30 – 4:45 pm

SESSION 12

ALDRICH

Panel – *The Sociology Curriculum: A New Vision for the 21st Century*

Moderators: Darina Lepadatu and Ravi Ghadge, *Kennesaw State University*
dlepadat@kennesaw.edu rghadge@kennesaw.edu

Panelists:

Gregory Donald, *Reinhardt University*, dg2@reinhardt.edu

Allen Hyde, *Georgia Institute of Technology*, allen.hyde@hsoc.gatech.edu

Sara Mason, *University of North Georgia*, sara.mason@ung.edu

Ned Rinalducci, *Georgia Southern University*, erinalducci@georgiasouthern.edu

Tiffany Parsons, *University of West Georgia*, tparsons@westga.edu

The purpose of this panel is to engage sociologists across the state in a roundtable discussion on how to revise the Sociology curriculum as a response to the rapid changes of the 21st century society. Which of our existing courses must be revised or discontinued from our curricula? Which new courses should we develop to offer valuable skills for our students on the job market? During a time of fierce competition with new interdisciplinary majors, how can we adjust our curricula to attract new majors? How do we keep Sociology relevant and responsive to the developments of the 21st century society?

SESSION 13

DUBIGNON

Theme – *Sociological Collection*

Moderator: Pamela Pitman Brown, *Albany State University*, pamelapitmanbrownphd@gmail.com

A Reflexive Look at Collaborative Research and Community Service

Chet Ballard, *Valdosta State University*, cballard@valdosta.edu

Rudy K. Prine, *Valdosta State University*, rkprine@valdosta.edu

For the past twenty years two researchers have engaged in a variety of community partnership projects that combine survey research, evaluation research, and service. The researchers apply their training in sociology and criminal justice to examine obstacles, lessons learned, and advice for those interested in collaborative research with a variety of communities and municipal agencies in Georgia.

A Letter to C. Wright Mills

Alex Reeves, *University of North Georgia*, anreev7082@ung.edu

This paper is an imagined communication to the ghost of C. Wright Mills. Mills' enduring influence on the discipline of sociology is explored, with particular attention to the ways in which Wright's work compares to and differs from the work of Edward Said.

Women in STEM

Holly Reeves, *University of North Georgia*, hjreev1507@ung.edu

This paper reports research done to examine women in STEM, women around the world and stem, what people are doing to promote STEM education in schools, how women with STEM careers are overlooked no matter what discoveries they have made or what they have done to better the world, and what various organizations are doing to combat this issue. It also includes a few interviews with women in STEM fields and analyzes what their experiences have been. Most importantly, it strives to answer a question that many people do not ask that often goes overlooked: where are women in STEM?

The Past, Present and Future of Feminism

Molly Poplin, *University of North Georgia*, MEPOPL1332@ung.edu

Feminism has been shown to consist of a distinct past, present, and future. The past included the three waves of feminism which have been said to be women's suffrage, equity, and the deconstruction of patriarchy. The three waves set the stage for an upcoming fourth wave which started in the early 2000s and has continued to stay present in our society today. The fourth wave describes the empowerment of women and the technology and hashtags used through the use of internet in our modern-day society. Present day feminism has also included the use of different brands, celebrities, and social movements that have helped promote and raise awareness for women all across the globe. As for the future, the future of feminism has focused on the use of technology as technology continues to enhance our society and media platforms in which we can globally communicate in our world.

SESSION 14

FEDERAL RESERVE

Theme – Demography, Global, and Macro Sociology

Moderator: David B. Broad, *University of North Georgia*, david.broad@ung.edu

A Historical Examination of Non-metropolitan Population Change in the United States from 1970 to 2000: A Guide for Future Research and Population Trends in the 21st Century

Harry L. Vogel, *East Georgia State College*, hvogel@ega.edu

This paper briefly summarizes the overarching non-metropolitan trends in population change that occurred in the United States from 1970 to the year 2000. To understand these changes I utilize the population deconcentration and regional restructuring perspectives. Finally, I hypothesize the

possible influences of the exponential growth of the internet, future artificial intelligence, and other technological changes on population growth in non-metropolitan areas in the 2020s.

Refugee Crisis in India: A Study on Rohingyas

Om Singh, *Bhupal Nobles University* (Udaipur Rajasthan, India), omsinghshekhawat1988@gmail.com

This paper examines the plight of Rohingyas refugees in India. The study will also include the origin of the community, showing the condition of victimization. Here this will find their earning and political status. Rohingyas crisis will have an impact on South-East Asian plain. Historically, we know that Myanmar has also been a concern to an area called South Asia. Therefore we have to find out the political issue of particular significance related to the subcontinent.

How Development Aid Impacts the Resilience of Fragile Situations: Examining the Link Between Development Aid and Resilience

Cyrel San Gabriel, *Kennesaw State University*, csangabr@students.kennesaw.edu

Fragile situations are the most vulnerable to violent conflict, terrorism, and climate change. Financial aid continues to flow from donor countries to fragile communities to carry out peacebuilding and statebuilding agenda. Scholars have conflicting views on whether foreign aid can help build peace and others point out donors' failures in statebuilding in fragile situations. The project examines to what extent development aid has (or has not) built the resilience of fragile situations using governance, economic growth, human development, and peacebuilding as indicators. Regression analyses examine the links between development aid and resilience. Causal relationships are explored through a case analysis of a fragile and conflict-affected situation in Mindanao, Philippines. The study finds that there is causality between development aid and resilience. Aid hurts a fragile situation but not too painfully; resilience is associated with aid flows, but not always and not entirely.

The Social Register: Staying Relevant in the Post-Industrial Age

David B. Broad, *University of North Georgia*, david.broad@ung.edu

The *Social Register* has been since 1887 a defining feature of the American social upper class which has been argued by Baltzell, Domhoff and others to be a governing class. From its beginnings in the flowering of the corporate oligarchy in the industrial age, the *Social Register* has changed relatively little in character or content. Recent journalistic and social scientific examinations of Social Registry have questioned its continuing relevance to the thesis that the social upper class is a governing class. This paper examines some of the foundational work of Domhoff and others and extends that examination to recent developments in the symbolic representations of Social Registry.

Friday 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Enjoy Jekyll Island!!!

Friday 7:30 – 9:30 pm

TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

DUBIGNON

Join us for an evening of general knowledge team trivia, light hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar! Be sure to check out the items for bid in our silent auction. All proceeds for these generously donated items go directly to student scholarships for our annual conference.

Saturday 8:00 – 9:15 am

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (UNTIL 10:30)
COFFEE, PASTRIES & FRUIT (UNTIL 9:30)

BALLROOM PARLOR

SESSION 15

DUBIGNON

ANNUAL APPLIED SOCIOLOGY WORKSHOP

Estimating and Describing the Population of Homeless in Youth in Atlanta, 2015 and 2018

Moderator: Brandon K. Attell, *Georgia State University*, brandonkattell@gmail.com

Panelists: Ana LaBoy, *Georgia State University*, alaboy@gsu.edu
Eric Wright, *Georgia State University*, ewright28@gsu.edu

The Atlanta Youth Count and Needs Assessment (AYCNA) began in 2015 as a partnership among sociologists and more than 20 community-based organizations to estimate and describe the population of homeless youth in Atlanta. The project expanded several years later with funding provided by the National Institute of Justice to include a second wave of data collection more specifically focused on human trafficking among this population. In this applied sociology workshop, we will present key findings from both waves of the Youth Count project. Specific emphasis will be placed on the advantages of community-based partnerships and research projects that can result from such relationships. In particular, we will present two studies grounded in the needs of the community: sophisticated capture-recapture methods to estimate the population, and research projects focused on the social networks among the youth.

Saturday 9:30 – 10:45 am

SESSION 16

ALDRICH

Theme– *Culture and Media*

Moderator: Michallene McDaniel, *University of North Georgia*, michallene.mcdaniel@ung.edu

Music and Ideological Divides – How Music Serves to Confirm Societal Divisions
Lara A. Wessel, *Georgia Southern University*, lwessel@georgiasouthern.edu

Public opinion is the expression of attitudes and values. Individual opinions combine to form group opinions, which can translate into cultural norms. Today's political culture is divided in numerous ways. One area of disagreement relates to the circumstances under which it is acceptable to criticize government. Music is often said to bridge cultural divides. Is this premise true? The purpose of this analysis is to examine how music represents ideological divisions in the United States, specifically, in the context of criticizing government. The results indicate that

themes in music are consistent with opinions about the criticism of government – some music reinforces the premise that criticism of government is acceptable, even preferred. Other music, however, reinforces the premise that criticism of government, in some cases, violates themes of patriotism and love of community and country. In other words, results indicate that music – rather than bridging divisions – is just as likely to reinforce ideological divides.

In the Beginning

Dee Clark Ferguson, *University of North Georgia*, dcfuto5349@ung.edu

In the late 1980s a new genre of music emerged called New Jack Swing. This genre outlined binary gender expectations and emphasized masculine dominance. This male dominated genre of music birthed a female orientated genre of music called New Jill Swing. The group Salt N' Pepa began to achieve notoriety within this genre. When examining Salt N' Pepa's lyrics and videos there is a revelation of words and images denouncing gender expectations. By showcasing females in traditional and dominating masculine roles, they challenged the New Jack Swing artists in a sort of call and response. The significance of these findings is based on the influence of their New Jack Swing predecessors who set a stage that defined and outlined gender roles, subsequently invading pop culture via music and attire. As Salt N' Pepa entered the Billboard charts, their words and images challenged the matrix of domination.

Media Influences on Violent Crime: A Literature Review

Crysta Botdorf, *Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College*, cbotdorf@stallions.abac.edu

This literature review examines the research on the topic of mass media influences on violent crime. This is a fairly new topic in the field of criminology as there is little research on “copycat” crime. Mass shootings, terrorist attacks, and other violent crimes occur in waves after sensationalized publicity. Technology has only magnified this effect. The research that is present on media influences on society is varied. Some scholars hold the position that violent media content is a “trigger” of crime and aggression. Others see media as an influence as to the technique and style of the crime committed and not as a motivator of crime. Simple changes to reporting ethics and practices could also lessen the possibility of copycat crimes. The aim of this paper is to explore past research on media influences on behavior and to discuss it in relation to violent crime.

How Is Adolescent Male Interaction With Adult Women Portrayed In Hannah Montana?

Erin Maurer, *Georgia Southern University*, em04164@georgiasouthern.edu

This research project uses content analysis and feminist theory to examine themes related to toxic masculinity and misogyny in the sitcom *Hannah Montana*. In particular, the sitcom's child character Rico Suave is shown to be misogynistic when interacting with women. There is little literature on the topic of representation of toxic masculinity in child characters, but there are many examples in modern media, such as the trope of the child being attracted to the babysitter, the lifeguard, or the friend of an older sibling, etc. In this sitcom, the fact that the aggressor is younger than the girls he is attracted to allow his actions to be played off as jokes. His behaviors are coded as coercion, objectification, sexualization and aggression to examine in what ways he is aggressive. Using similarly formatted transcripts from seasons two, three, and four, I pulled all lines of dialogue and stage notes with Rico in them to code into my data set.

SESSION 17

DUBIGNON

Theme– Issues of Gender

Moderator: Alison Hatch, *University of Colorado – Boulder*, Alison.Hatch@colorado.edu

Women's Health in the South: Teenage Pregnancy, Maternal and Infant Mortality, and the New Heartbeat Law

Callie Bernstein, *Kennesaw State University*, cbernste@students.kennesaw.edu

Laura Brockmann, *Kennesaw State University*, lbrockm1@students.kennesaw.edu
Melissa Hooper, *Kennesaw State University*, mhooper@students.kennesaw.edu
Kiara Graves, *Kennesaw State University*, kgrave16@students.kennesaw.edu

We are a group of 4 students conducting research on the top 4 social problems of Georgia. The purpose of our project is to explore the most critical aspects of women's health in Georgia, more specifically how teen pregnancies, women's mortality rates, infant mortality rates and the new Heartbeat Law affect women's health in Georgia. According to the CDC, Georgia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country (CDC 2019). There were 43 deaths that were related to pregnancy in Georgia in 2014 and a large racial disparity among maternal deaths. The national average infant mortality rate in 2017 is 5.8 deaths per 1,000 births (CDC 2017). On May 7, 2019, the Georgia Governor had signed one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, called the Fetal Heartbeat Law (Mazzei & Blinder, 2019).

Women on Top: Sex Workers for Women and Couples

Amy Boone, *University of North Georgia*, ahboon3925@ung.edu

Sex work is a complex and often controversial topic that frequently frames the female sex worker as a powerless victim whose services are materialized through the patriarchal structure of society. This is evident in 2018 public policies such as The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) that fail to recognize a sector of sex workers that neither self-identify as victims nor feel dominated by traditional gender roles. This qualitative study aims to complete the gaps in research pertaining to indoor prostitution, specifically, top-tiered earning sex workers and the women and couples who seek their services. Interviews were conducted with four top-tiered indoor sex workers who charge a minimum session rate of \$400USD per hour and four women who have paid for the services of a top-tiered indoor sex worker.

Resisting a Sexist Ideology: Responses to Sexual Harassment by Women Security Officers in Trinidad and Tobago

Charen Glasgow, *Kennesaw State University*, cglasgow@kennesaw.edu

Sexual harassment of women at work is prevalent in Trinidad and Tobago; organizations and law makers are silent on this form of discrimination and violence against women. This research breaks the silence on sexual harassment and creates environmental awareness for the safety of workers. Focus Groups Discussions and Face-to-face Interviews were conducted with Women Security Officers from three companies. Women security officers are suggested as occupying a historically "male" space. Four main themes emerged: (i) prevalence of sexual harassment of women by men, (ii) supervisors are often the perpetrators and decision makers, (iii) silence on sexual harassment due to fear of reprisals against victims, (iv) sexual advances being offensive but accepted to negotiate increase in income. The multi-perspective approach successfully stimulates discussion on sexual harassment and adds to the paucity of scholarly writings on the phenomenon.

The Controversy of Transgender Athletes

Bill Collins, *Georgia Southern University*, WC01873@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

The purpose of this research is to examine how Fox News frames transgender stories on the issue of competition, and fairness of play, for transgender and non-binary athletes, and specifically if transgender women are allowed to compete with women assigned female at birth. By utilizing ProQuest, I will find articles, and review the comments that sports viewers make, I will be able to provide a qualitative content analysis by utilizing 25 different samples of viewers. I will also use the Nvivo software to form groups of various thoughts of who is for the rights of these athletes and who is opposed. By utilizing the coding software I will be able to obtain a percentage for each category which could lead to doing studies on more and different sporting events and associated news.

Theme– Race in Education, Commerce, and the World

Moderator: Sara Mason, University of North Georgia, sara.mason@ung.edu

White Students at Historically Black Colleges and Paradoxical Whiteness

Devon Goss, *Oxford College of Emory University*, Devon.Goss@emory.edu

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were imagined as a venue for racial uplift, and continue to play a vital part in educating black leaders. However, HBCUs have seen changes within their racial makeup and composition, with an increase in the number of white students attending. This study explores how white students conceptualize their whiteness within their HBCU experiences. In-depth interviews with 30 white HBCU students reveal a paradoxical impact on the development of racial self-consciousness. Specifically, white HBCU students describe their HBCU experience using two types of racial self-consciousness: amplified whiteness, wherein the experience of attending a HBCU as a white student led to an increased identification with whiteness; and muted whiteness, in which white HBCU students used their experiences at the institutions to downplay the salience of their own white racial identities.

Consensus and Dissensus: Cultural Frames of Southern, Rural African Americans.

Jamie MacLennan, *Georgia Southwestern State University*, jamie.maclennan@gsw.edu

The examination of cultural frames has been usefully applied in a wide variety of substantive areas, including social movements, urban ethnography, and poverty studies. It has been found that frames influence the actions of individuals as well as the trajectory of social movements. The following presentation consists of an exploratory analysis of the cultural frames of Southern, rural African Americans living in concentrated poverty. Data was gathered via 38 face-to-face interviews conducted in 2018. Results indicate consensus in some cultural frames (e.g., that the criminal justice system is discriminatory) and dissensus in others (e.g., the degree to which racial discrimination is an insurmountable barrier to success). These results will hopefully contribute to our understanding of related actions, whether at the individual level or as a social movement.

The Effects of Korean-Owned Beauty Supply Stores in Urban Communities: The Use of Cultural Brokers

Fawn Hudson, *University of West Georgia*, fawnhudson@yahoo.com

Since the Los Angeles riots of 1992, researchers have reported on the tension between Black consumers and Korean merchants that service urban neighborhoods. Strained relationships between the two groups has led to insensitivity and mistreatment towards each other. Recently, Korean-owned beauty supply store managers have hired black women as “cultural brokers” to reduce tension between Korean shopkeepers and black customers. While previous research has focused on repairing relationships from the merchant’s perspective, this study focuses on the subjective experiences of cultural brokers through in depth interviews and non-participant observation. The study included 11 black female employees working at inner city Beauty Supply stores in Atlanta, Ga. Data were coded to identify themes.

An African American in Paris: Exploring the Black Expatriate Experience

Dominique Allen, *University of North Georgia*, DAALLE4138@ung.edu

The French have an appreciation of African American culture that can still be seen in French life today. Historical landmarks celebrate African Americans who lived and thrived in Paris during a time when their rights were denied in their own country. Many African Americans were barred from integrating fully into American life due to segregation, and found that the same challenges did not exist in Paris. Although African Americans in France had a smaller community than in America, they flourished culturally and left an impact of French society. Even today, African Americans are treated and appreciated in a foreign country differently than in their own land. This paper seeks to examine the ways African American were able to thrive without the confines of race,

and how being seen solely as American impacted their stay abroad. My personal experience as an African American person travelling in Paris also informs this paper.

Saturday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

SESSION 19

ALDRICH

Panel– *Tips and Tricks for Applying to Graduate Programs in Sociology: Q&A Session*

Moderator: Allen Hyde, Georgia Institute of Technology, allen.hyde@hsoc.gatech.edu

The graduate school application process can be overwhelming and complicated to navigate. In this panel, faculty in graduate program institutions will discuss some of the tips and tricks for applying to masters and doctoral graduate programs in sociology, as well as some things to consider before applying. While we will have a few questions developed in advance by the panelists to start the session, we will spend the majority of the panel with an open Q&A discussion allowing undergraduate and masters students, as well as faculty and staff, to ask questions of the panel about this important life decision.

SESSION 20

DUBIGNON

Theme– *Medicine and Health*

Moderator: Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University, ltreiber@kennesaw.edu

Mental Health Inequality Between Racial/Ethnic Minorities and Social Class

Kristina Kula, University of North Georgia, kkula3269@ung.edu

The purpose of this paper was to study past research that has been done to determine if there is mental health inequality between racial/ethnic minorities and social classes. The main point that be covered in this paper is that there are mental health inequalities between racial/ethnic minorities and social classes. It will also provide definitions on mental health and mental illness. Included in this paper are ideas as to what could be implemented to help reduce these inequalities. It was found that there are consistent inequalities between racial/ethnic minorities and social classes that the United States should be paying attention to and creating a solution for the inequalities.

Minority Stress as a Chronic Mental Health Condition

Jeffrey Lentz, University of North Georgia, Jeffrey.lentz@ung.edu

According to the DSM-5, there are several diagnosable stress-related conditions. These diagnosable conditions include acute stress disorder, adjustment disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder. Unfortunately, minority stress is not listed as a mental disorder in the DSM-5. I argue that minority stress is a mental disorder that impacts the lives of the marginalized groups that experience minority stress. Based on the definition of a mental disorder, minority stress meets the definition. The social, emotional, mental, and physical consequences of minority stress create conditions and processes that negatively impact members of a marginalized group. This paper will discuss how minority stress fits into the definition of a mental disorder according to the DSM-5. I will apply minority stress to sexual and gender minority middle and older adults and discuss how

research findings further support a diagnosis for minority stress to build a better community for walks of life.

A Content Analysis of Decreasing Vaccination Rates in the United States

Cierra Clark , *Georgia Southern University*, cc09839@georgiasouthern.edu

Vaccination rates have continued to decrease in the United States. Per the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States has the highest case count for measles in over 25 years. In a study completed by Andrew Wakefield, he determined that the measles vaccine was linked to autism in children. Wakefield's study spread across the media before it was proven to be fraudulent and thus, snowballed into a massive social movement. This false study has caused years of distrust between science and the community. The purpose of this qualitative study is to examine arguments within the online anti-vaccination community. To gain insight into the anti-vaccination community, I will perform a content analysis over twenty-five or more anti-vaccination websites. I will compare the website's central claims and determine why these groups are in resistance.

Disability, Organizations, and Oppression: A Survey of Student Perceptions

Linda Treiber, *Kennesaw State University*, ltreiber@kennesaw.edu

According to the World Health Organization, disability is an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations, and restrictions in participation that some people may face. In this study, I surveyed 449 students on their perceptions of the problems facing disabled people. Respondents also identified possible educational deficits about disabilities in schools and workplaces. 77% of the students agreed that having a certificate in disability studies would help them in the workplace. Among the most valuable workplace skills were helping organizations avoid discrimination, preventing bullying and harassment of disabled people, and understanding how the law and legal system deal with disability. Roughly one-third of respondents (31%) reported disability-related issues in their learning or working environment.

SESSION 21

FEDERAL RESERVE

Theme– Crime and Criminal Justice

Moderator: Melinda Johnson, *Emory University*, melinda.dawn.johnson@emory.edu

The Impact of Gender, Race, Social Class, and Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency in Georgia

Ciyanni Hunter, *Kennesaw State University*, chunte64@students.kennesaw.edu

Tytiana Williams, *Kennesaw State University*, twill349@students.kennesaw.edu

Nia Seldon, *Kennesaw State University*, nseldon@students.kennesaw.edu

Gabrielle Roberts, *Kennesaw State University*, grober36@students.kennesaw.edu

Juvenile delinquency in the United States is progressively increasing. The determining factors that contribute to delinquency gender, poverty and social class, family structure, and race. Youth living in poverty lack adequate resources such as mental health services, education, job opportunities, etc., (Cuentas, 2018). Social class influences delinquent behavior by subjecting the child to limited resources and opportunities. Lack of motivating and educating programs in these areas contribute to the high amount of juvenile delinquency. There are numerous racial disparities among juvenile offenders. Caucasian offenders are less likely to be committed than offenders of the minority. Family structures may increase the risk of delinquency. Children that grew in a separated or divorced family are a higher risk factor for delinquency.

Criminal Justice System of Georgia: Why Are the Incarceration, Recidivism, Drug Offenses and Police Brutality Rates So High?

Sherya McBride, *Kennesaw State University*, smcbri14@students.kennesaw.edu

Will McCollum, *Kennesaw State University*, wmcoll1@students.kennesaw.edu

Meghan Walsh, Kennesaw State University, mwalsh25@students.kennesaw.edu
TJ Bixby, Kennesaw State University, tbixby@students.kennesaw.edu

The purpose of our project is to investigate several aspects of criminal justice in the state of Georgia. We will focus on the incarceration rates and recidivism, drug offenses and police brutality as key aspects of criminal justice where Georgia has abnormally high records in comparison with the neighboring states and the national average. For instance, Georgia has the second highest incarceration rates in the United States, with 53,064 individuals in state prisons. High rates of incarceration can also lead to high rates of recidivism. Georgia has a 50% recidivism rate, which is higher than most of our neighboring states. Recidivism rates not only affect the offender, but also affect their community. It can cost up to \$130 million annually (Georgia Center for Opportunity, 2019). Reducing the rates of recidivism will help to improve public safety as well as save taxpayers money.

Relationships and the Contexts of Criminal Homicides in a Florida County

Albert E. McCormick, Jr., *M² Research and Consulting*, amccormick919@comcast.net

This investigation builds upon previous research conducted on homicides in a semi-metropolitan Florida county. The author examined homicide situations associated with the nature of the relationship between offender and victim. Important context differences were found depending upon whether the principals were in an intimate, family, primary, or secondary relationship.

Saturday 12:30 pm

INCOMING AND OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND LUNCH

Cover photo credit:
Carly L. Redding

From the Program Chair

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Program Chair for the GSA's 2019 Annual Meeting. Creating the program is a time-consuming job, but it is a labor of love and a very satisfying project (eventually).

Thank you to everyone who submitted papers, panels, and workshop proposals.

Thank you so much to my fellow Executive Board members for their support and assistance.

Particular thanks go to my five classes of students and many advisees, who have endured a more-distracted-than-usual professor for a few weeks now. Your patience and understanding mean the world to me.

Thank you to my UNG colleagues for allowing me to hide in my office and work, relatively undisturbed.

Finally, thank you to my family, who may see me for more than fleeting minutes a day after I return from Jekyll Island. Interpret this as either a promise or a threat, as you wish.

Sincerely,

Michallene McDaniel

Presidents of Georgia Sociological Association

John T. Doby	1964-65	Albert E. McCormick, Jr.	1995-96
Tilman C. Cothran	1965-66	Jay Strickland	1996-97
Raymond Payne	1966-67	Fred Zampa	1997-98
Dorothy Pitman	1967-68	Linda August	1998-99
John A. Tumblin, Jr.	1968-69	Lana Wachniak	1999-00
Homer C. Cooper	1969-70	Leona Kanter	2000-01
Barbara Payne Stancil	1970-71	Mel Fein	2001-02
Alpha M. Bond, Jr.	1971-72	Sam Abaidoo	2002-03
Eugene G. Sherman, Jr.	1972-73	Robert Johnston	2003-04
John Drenan Kelley	1973-74	Ned Rinalducci	2004-05
Fred R. Crawford	1974-75	Michelle McCormick	2005-06
Marguerite Woodruff	1975-76	Kevin Demmitt	2006-07
Charlene R. Black	1976-77	Laurel Holland	2007-08
John M. Smith, Jr.	1977-78	Michael Hodge	2008-09
Anna A. Grant	1978-79	Miriam Boeri	2009-10
Norma Seerley	1979-80	Donald Gregory	2010-11
Larry A. Platt	1980-81	Kathleen Dolan	2011-12
Richard M. Levinson	1981-82	Linda Treiber	2012-13
Louie A. Brown	1982-83	Ned Rinalducci	2013-14
Frederick L. Bates	1983-84	Michallene McDaniel	2014-15
Jacqueline Boles	1984-85	Philip Thomas	2015-16
Charles J. Karcher	1985-86	Alison Hatch	2016-17
Albeno P. Garbin	1986-87	Sara Mason	2017-18
Ruby C. Lewis	1987-88	Carly L. Redding	2018-19
Charles Jaret	1988-89		
Barbara Karcher	1989-90		
Robert Agnew	1990-91		
Chet Ballard	1991-92		
Hugh D. Spitler	1992-93		
Robert Johnston	1993-94		
G. Roger Branch	1994-95		

Sociologist of the Year Award Winners

Peggy Herrman	2001-02	Miriam Boeri	2011-12
Robert Agnew	2002-03	Michael Hodge	2012-13
Jacqueline Boles	2003-04	Ralph LaRossa	2013-14
Douglas Bachtel	2004-05	Linda Grant	2014-15
Catherine Meeks	2005-06	Kathleen Lowney	2015-16
Barbara Karcher	2006-07	Jody Clay-Warner	2016-17
Sandra Stone	2007-08	Mindy Stompler	2017-18
Charlie Jaret	2008-09	Mel Fein	2018-19
Claire Sterk	2009-10		
Lana Wachniak	2010-11		

Meritorious Service Award Winners

1985	Drennan Kelley, Dorothy Pitman, Marguerite Woodruff, and John Doby
1986	No presentation
1987	Anna Grant
1988	Imogene Dean
1989	Abbott Ferris
1990	Homer C. Cooper and Hans Mauksch
1991	Albeno Garbin and Ruby C. Lewis
1992	Charlene Black, Barbara Karcher, and Charles Karcher
1993	Jacqueline Boles and Marian Glustrom
1994	Wilfred Bailey and Chet Ballard
1995	Ernestine Thompson and Robert Johnston
1996	No presentation
1997	Sandra Stone
1998	No record
1999	Roger Branch
2000	Al McCormick
2001	No record
2002	Jay Hughes (Strickland)
2003	No record
2004	No record
2005	Melvyn L. Fein
2006	No record
2007	No record
2008	Donald Gregory and Ned Rinalducci
2009	Michelle McCormick
2010	Al McCormick
2011	James Floyd
2012	Michallene McDaniel
2013	Laurel Holland
2014	Anne Borden
2015	Fred Zampa
2016	Rodger Bates
2017	Linda Treiber
2018	Philip Thomas