

Chair's Corner: Dr. Chad Smith



In this edition of “The Promise” we provide updated information on recent events, accomplishments, and achievements by the department’s faculty. The newsletter begins with a spotlight on our newest tenure-track faculty members, both of whom joined us in the fall of 2018. Dr. Beatriz Aldana Marquez (p. 2), who received her PhD from Texas A&M University, returns to Texas after a faculty appointment at California State University, Monterey Bay. Dr. Michelle Edwards (M.A. 2009; p. 2) returns to Texas State University after receiving her PhD from Washington State University

and serving as an Assistant Professor at Texas Christian University. We are thrilled to introduce both of them as our newest faculty to join us in the department. We also highlight the accomplishments of our faculty in 2018 (p.3) – join me in congratulating all of our faculty on a productive year.

In this edition we also want to bring your attention to an important milestone in the department’s history. In academic year 1993-1994 the Department of Sociology opened as a stand-alone department. Prior to that year, the department included Anthropology and/or Social Work. So this academic year, 2018-2019, marks our 25th year anniversary as a singular department. To celebrate (p.5) we include some old and new pictures and some comments from the department chair for 18 of those 25 years, Dr. Susan Day, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I want to thank you for reading “The Promise” and I greatly appreciate your interest in the department. Please keep up with our news and events and keep us posted on your great achievements via facebook and twitter.

Inside this issue:

Chair's Corner 1

Faculty Spotlight:
New Faculty 2

Recent Faculty
Accomplishments 3

Sociology
Department Turns
25: Susan Day's
Snapshot 5

Faculty Spotlight

New Faculty: Dr. Michelle Edwards



Thank you all for the warm welcome/return to Texas State! As an alumna (M.A. in Sociology, '09), I am thrilled to again be a part of Texas State's Department of Sociology. This year, I have taught two undergraduate-level courses: Introduction to Sociology and Quantitative Methods. At Texas Christian University, where I taught before coming to Texas State, I also taught classes in environmental sociology, energy studies, and work and society. I look forward to contributing even further to the departmental course offerings, like in Fall 2019, when I'll be teaching Society and Environment (SOCI 3365).

My research interests are related to environmental concerns, risk perceptions, perceptions of science, social inequality, and quantitative and qualitative methods. Past research studies have included a qualitative study of community organizers for farmworkers in Texas, a survey of Washington and Nebraska residents on water governance issues, and a qualitative study of stakeholder perceptions of risk related to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in the Dallas-Fort

Worth region. I am currently working on two research projects. The first is a research project with two Texas State students, Hannah Edwards (graduate student) and Briana Luna (undergraduate student), on how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is implemented for immigrant detention centers. The second is a research project with Texas State undergraduate, Caden Ziegler, on how NOAA employees engage with the public on Reddit's Science Ask Me Anything series. I'm so excited to be back at Texas State!

New Faculty: Dr. Beatriz Aldana Marquez

My research focuses on Latinx Sociology, immigration and deportation, and theory broadly defined. Specifically, I am interested in racial formation theory to address the impacts of deportation on vulnerable communities in the United States. In the past, I conducted a three-year ethnographic study on the charro (Mexican cowboy) using the framework of Thorstein Veblen to address issues of race, class, and gender. My upcoming book *From the Peaceable to the Barbaric: Thorstein Veblen and the Charro Cowboy* brings into focus this vast qualitative research. Currently, I research the operations of the Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) by examining their detention contracts with the US, their audit system reports, and their death reports from 2008-2015. I have researched ICE's documented negligence to analyze their use of solitary confinement, occurrence of sexual assault, low quality medical care, etc. using qualitative software. I am also interested in researching employees within the deportation apparatus. All my research is interdisciplinary in nature and applies classical and contemporary social theory in a distinctive approach.

I teach Introduction to Sociology and Latinos and Immigration in the Department of Sociology and I am affiliated with the Latina/o studies minor. Although I often teach depressing material, I enjoy teaching undergraduates of all majors and all backgrounds because of their enthusiastic drive to learn. I am also fortunate to be part of a department with excellent faculty and friendly staff members.



Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Awards and Grants

Patti Giuffre was a recipient of the Alpha Chi Favorite Professor Award.

Gloria Martinez-Ramos has been named a New Leadership Academy 2018-2019 Fellow with the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good.

Rachel Romero was named the John R. Hood Honors Professor of the Year by the Honors College at Texas State University.

Current Events, Talks, and Presentations

Gayle Bouzard and **Kelly Mosel-Talavera** presented a workshop at the 2018 Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans. Their presentation, “Teaching Difficult Topics in the Age of Trump Without Getting Fired,” focused on the challenges of presenting challenging course material during the current political climate.

Kyong Hee Chee, Olga Gerhart (philosophy) and **Seoyoun Kim** have received the MIRG funding (Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant) to conduct a project entitled “Storytelling, generativity, and well-being among persons living with dementia.”

Joe Kotarba has been invited to present the Keynote address at the 36th Annual Qualitative Analysis Conference, hosted by the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Canada, in May 2019. The theme of the conference is: The Transdisciplinary Efficacy of Qualitative Methods, and the title of Joe’s lecture is: Translational Biomedical Science: The Evolution of Qualitative Contributions.

Nathan Pino was invited as an expert participant to the “Guarantees of Non-Recurrence: Transformative Police Reform” Conference at the Utrecht University Centre for Global Challenges. He presented the paper, “Transformative Police Reform in Trinidad and Tobago: Prospects and Challenges” and helped lead a master class at Utrecht University on “Policing by Proximity.”

In an ongoing effort to expand our network of reputable and sociologically relevant internship sites, **Tina Villarreal** met with several business owners/directors to set up internships in booming areas of the I-35 corridor. This effort has resulted in new or revitalized partnerships with sites including Kyle ER, Limitless Physical Therapy, Live Oak Assisted Living and EVO Entertainment Group.

Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

McGee, Julius, Christina Ergas, and **Matthew Clement**. 2018. "Racing to Reduce Emissions: Assessing the Relationship between Race and Environmental Impacts from Transportation." *Sociology of Development*, 4(2), 217–236.

Edwards, Michelle L. 2018. "‘Just Report the Science’: How Scientists Frame Their Engagement in Contested Debates over Fracking in the Barnett Shale." *Energy Research & Social Science* 45:67-74.

DeSoto, William, Hassan Tajali, **Nathan W. Pino**, and **Chad L. Smith**. 2018. "The Effect of College Students' Religious Involvement on Their Academic Ethic." *Religion & Education* 45(2): 190-207.

Harris, Deborah A. and **Rachel Romero**. 2018. "Race, Four Farms, and a City: Color Blindness and the Austin, TX Commercial Urban Farm Debate." Online first in *Humanity and Society*.

Lowe, Ricardo (MS Applied Sociology 2014), **Debarun Majumdar**, **Audwin Anderson**, Emily Summers, and Gail Ryser. 2018. "Constructing a Reliable and Valid Instrument to Measure Post-Secondary Students Cultural Competence." *Global Journal of Human-Social Science* 18(3): 27-38.

Pan, Xi, Jasleen K. Chahal, and Rose Marie Ward. 2018. "Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) among Older Adults in the World Major Metropolises: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study." *Ageing & Society*, 38(1), 108–128.

Watt, Toni, **Seoyoun Kim** & Kaytlin Garrison. 2018. "The Relationship between State Supports and Post-Secondary Enrollment among Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: An Analysis of the National Youth in Transition Database." *Child Welfare*, 96(3), 1-20.

Sociology Department celebrates 25th Anniversary as a Stand-Alone Department

A Snapshot of Sociology from 1993-1994: The First Year as a Stand-Alone Department

Prior to 1993-1994, the Department of Sociology was the Department of Sociology-Anthropology and included the Walter H. Richter Institute of Social Work. In 1993-1994, the first year as a stand-alone department, Don Matlock was chair, tenured faculty had begun teaching a 3-course load because of Rollo Newsom's decisions as VPAA, and deans and the Faculty Senate were fighting over across-the-board raises versus merit raises. We had started the Applied Sociology degree, which had been Clarence Schultz's creation. The internship program was staffed with one faculty member, after trying to allow individual faculty members to supervise internships in the field. Ann Marie Ellis was the first faculty member to supervise interns as a part of her teaching load, but when she got tenure, Linda Dee became the supervisor. We were housed in Evans, on the second floor. Dr. Matlock tried to make sure everyone had a computer, but some people had to buy their own. Email was command driven on a legacy system created in-house. The tenured faculty members were Don Matlock, Clarence Schultz, Walter Corrie, David Jorgenson, Rollo Newsom, Ann Marie Ellis, Ramona Ford, Jack O'Connell, Al Short and Susan Day. Don hired Audwin Anderson the following year. Doug Forbes was in and out of the department, teaching for us as he worked on his dissertation. Sheila dos Santos also taught, and about that time, Lilly Dees began teaching a Computers Applications in Sociology course for us. Jack Gravitt was Dean. We ran off tests using mimeograph sheets and paper, until Dr. Matlock finally got us a copier. We had no lecturers, only the three ranks, instructors and per-course people.

The University was even more under-funded than it is now. Tuition had not yet been unregulated and there just wasn't enough money "to afford the faculty we had hired" (a paraphrase of a famous quote from Bob Gratz, who had succeeded Rollo Newsom as VPAA). As an example of how underfunded we were, sometime in that era, I taught a 40-student graduate Criminology class. I remember taking the grades into Dr. Matlock and our deciding where lines had to be drawn. We regularly stacked graduate and undergraduate courses, not to get them to make, but to have enough courses for both graduate and undergraduate students.

-Susan Day, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (Former Department Chair in Sociology) and an Associate Professor in 1993-1994



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