Welcome to Sociology at the University of Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF Sociology

Graduate Program Information Packet
Important Contact Information

University Offices
Graduate School Admissions Office 301.405.4198
Office of International Services 301.314.7740
Graduate Housing 301.314.5274

Sociology Department
Dr. Patricio Korzeniewicz 301.405.6394
Chair korzen@umd.edu

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Sociology Graduate Office 301-405-6390
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University and Department Web Sites
University System http://www.umsa.umd.edu
University of MD, College Park http://www.umd.edu
Graduate School http://www.gradschool.umd.edu
Graduate Admissions http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions
International Student Scholar Services http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences http://www.bsos.umd.edu
Sociology Department http://www.socy.umd.edu

Other
Educational Testing Service 609.771.7670
(GRE examinations) 866.473.4373
Educational Testing Service http://www.ets.org
(TOEFL examination) http://www.toefl.org
Maryland English Institute mei@umd.edu
(International Teaching Assistant Evaluation) http://international.umd.edu/mei/572
Location

The University of Maryland’s Department of Sociology is housed in the Art-Sociology building on the University’s main campus at College Park. College Park is located "inside the beltway" in the greater Washington, D.C., area. Besides being the capital, Washington is also the city with the greatest concentration of researchers, library books, data archives, and applied social scientists in the world. Sociologists at Maryland are in close proximity to most major social science funding agencies and they also have easy access to the major repositories of social science data such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Institutes of Health, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as such ancillary agencies as the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the National Agricultural Library. Finally, although we are situated in a large metropolitan area, College Park still provides a university community with its many amenities.

Faculty

As of Fall 2016, the Department of Sociology has 27 full-time faculty members and several affiliated faculty. It is ranked 24th among all sociology departments nationally by the U.S. News and World Report’s annual rating system. The graduate program is organized into four broad research areas: Demography, Political Sociology, Social Psychology, and Social Inequality & Mobility. Within these areas, faculty research specialties include the following:

- Aging and the Life Course
- Culture and Ideology
- Crime and Violence
- Critical Race Theory
- Education
- Environmental Sociology
- Gender, Work, and Family
- Global Inequalities
- Health Inequalities
- Immigration
- Intergenerational Relationships
- Military Sociology
- Power, Status, and Leadership
- Occupational Inequalities
- Race and Ethnicity
- Residential Segregation
- Revolution and Social Change
- Time Use and Inequality

In addition to these programs, the department is closely involved with the following research centers: the Center for Research on Military Organization, the Maryland Population Research Center (MPRC), the Center for Innovation, and the Program for Society and the Environment. Collectively, these centers account for over five million dollars in annual research funding. The Department is also affiliated with an interdisciplinary Joint Program on Survey Methods (JPSM), founded by Stanley Presser and his colleagues at the University of Michigan and Westat. This program, which is funded by the Federal Statistical System, provides additional resources to faculty and students interested in survey research.
**Students and their Support**

The department has a large and active graduate program. We are primarily a Ph.D. program, although the M.A. is available en route to the Ph.D. We typically admit 10 to 12 new students each year and have a total of 70 to 80 students enrolled in any given semester. Students are expected to be full-time while completing their coursework. The department generally offers 10 graduate seminars per semester. The department’s undergraduate program is among the largest in the United States, with approximately 400 sociology majors.

Most graduate students are supported financially by sources connected with the department, including graduate assistantships and fellowships, which are accompanied by a waiver of university tuition and benefits. Very competitive students who receive fellowships through the graduate school or through the department are also offered one-half of a graduate assistantship. A number of students have been funded off-campus at such places as the National Institute on Aging, National Center for Health Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and others. Graduate students not only take classes in sociology but also are encouraged to participate in the profession. The department and the Graduate School provide some financial support for students to attend and participate in conferences and professional meetings.

**Interdisciplinary & International**

The sociology department encourages interdisciplinary work. Some of the department’s graduate courses are taught in collaboration with other units of the university, such as the Departments of Economics, Government and Politics, and the Schools of Social Work, Public Affairs; and Business.

The University of Maryland also seeks to create links to other universities in the United States and elsewhere. Each year faculty from different parts of the world come to spend their sabbaticals in the department. About one fourth of our graduate student body is international. The influx of faculty and students from various parts of the world, as well as our location in the nation’s capital, makes for a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere.
Graduate Program Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)
The Graduate Program in Sociology is designed for students seeking a Ph.D. degree. However, the M.A. option is available to students who either wish to obtain a master’s degree while continuing in the Ph.D. program, or who leave the program before finishing the PhD. Doctoral students may obtain a Master of Arts degree during their course of doctoral study by completing 30 credit hours, including:

1. one course in social theory (SOCY 620)
2. two courses in statistics (SOCY 601 & 602)
3. one course in logics of inquiry (SOCY699D)
4. one course in research methods (SOCY699X)
5. one computer skills course (SOCY 699C)
6. a second-year research paper which meets the approval of two faculty members (completed while enrolled in 3 credits of SOCY 699).

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
The general requirements for the Ph.D. consist of 40 credits of coursework, 3 credits of Masters level research, a Second-Year Research Paper, the passing of two Specialty Exams, 12 credits of Dissertation Research, and a Dissertation. The coursework includes:

1. two courses in social theory (SOCY 620 & an additional theory course from an approved list)
2. two courses in statistics (SOCY 601 and SOCY602)
3. one course in logics of inquiry (SOCY699D)
4. two research methods courses (SOCY699X and a second from an approved list)
5. An advanced statistics course approved by the student’s advisor OR an additional course in research methods. Students who take a research methods course instead of an advanced statistics course must first have permission of advisor
6. one computer skills course (SOCY 699C)
7. A set of three courses in one of the department’s eight specialties (independent reading courses do not count, and the same course may not be counted twice). This coursework will serve as the foundation for one specialty exam
8. a set of courses to support the student’s second specialty exam. This may be three courses from another of the department’s eight specialties or a set of courses for an alternative specialty exam developed by the student with an exam committee
9. a second-year research paper which meets the approval of two faculty members (completed while enrolled in 3 credits of SOCY 699)
10. 12 credit hours of dissertation research (SOCY 899)
Application Information

Admission to the graduate program is based upon the student’s academic record, personal statement, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and other information relevant to the applicant’s chances of being successful in the program. Although a previous major in sociology is not required, students entering the graduate program should have had the following in undergraduate courses: mathematics through college algebra, elementary statistics, sociological theory, and sociological research methods. Students who have completed prior graduate coursework in sociology may petition to waive one or more courses in Social Theory, Statistics or Research Methods.

If you are interested in applying to our program, the university strongly encourages all eligible applicants to the Graduate School to apply online. Application materials may be found at: http://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process.

The following materials are required before your application will be reviewed:

- A completed application.
- A non-refundable application fee of $75.
- A complete set of transcripts reflecting all undergraduate and graduate work completed or in process.
- Three letters of recommendation submitted by professors or others who can assess the quality of the applicant’s record and academic potential. Either paper or online letters are acceptable. Information about online letters is available in the Application Supplemental Form.
- A statement of goals, experiences and research interests.
- A writing sample
- GRE (verbal and quantitative) scores submitted directly from the Educational Testing Service (www.ets.org).
  The University of Maryland’s institutional code for the GRE is 5814
- TOEFL scores (for international students who are non-native speakers of English).

Application Deadlines for Admission:

U.S. CITIZENS:
January 5: Departmental deadline to be considered for fellowship or assistantship offers

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:
December 1: Departmental deadline to be considered for fellowship or assistantship offers
January 5: Final Deadline
About our Research Areas

The sociology doctoral program is a focused program of study in which students not only receive training in theory, methodology, and statistics, but also develop in-depth knowledge in two specialty areas. Through comprehensive exams, students are required to demonstrate knowledge in two of the broad specialty areas listed below.

- Demography
- Political Sociology
- Social Psychology
- Social Inequality & Mobility

These overarching specialty areas incorporate many of the research foci of our faculty.

Aging and the Life Course • Culture and Ideology • Crime and Violence • Critical Race Theory • Education • Environmental Sociology • Gender, Work, and Family • Global Inequalities • Health Inequalities • Immigration • Intergenerational Relationships • Military Sociology • Power, Status, and Leadership • Occupational Inequalities • Race and Ethnicity • Residential Segregation • Revolution and Social Change • Time Use and Inequality

A brief description of the four research areas follows.
Demography

Coordinator: Sonalde Desai • 301.405.6312 • sdesai@umd.edu

Demography, or the study of population, has been an area of graduate study within the University of Maryland’s Department of Sociology for many years. The focus has been on social demography—that is, the study of social factors that are associated with population dynamics—though also with a grounding in the traditional components of demography: fertility, migration and mortality. We study why people have the number of children they have, migrate when they do, and die when they do—and the consequences of such behaviors. We also study how these demographic processes relate to family dynamics (such as marital formation and dissolution) and labor force activity. Group differences in population outcomes—for example, differences by gender, ethnicity, and race—are important considerations in this field of study. Our perspective is both national (United States) and international, including developing countries.

Faculty Interests
Sociology faculty active in the demography program include Christine Bachrach, Feinian Chen, Philip Cohen, Monica Das Gupta, Sonalde Desai, Joan Kahn, Meredith Kleykamp, Kris Marsh, Julie Park, Michael Rendall, Liana Sayer, Reeve Vanneman, Andres Villereal and Wei-hsin Yu. Recent and ongoing faculty research projects that focus on the United States include such topics as the relationship between women’s employment and fertility; time use and the care of children; birth timing, marital timing, and education-family interrelationships; health disparities over the life course; the changing economic roles of men and women, the causes of child poverty, and the relationship between household structure and labor supply; poverty and inequality, and racial and ethnic residential segregation. Research on developing countries includes such topics as intra-household resource allocation, economic development, gender differences in literacy in India, and the determinants of maternal and child health in India and China. Policy issues relating to population change and work and family dynamics are also studied, covering the U.S., Europe, and developing countries.

Maryland Population Research Center
Many of the Department’s demography faculty are also affiliated with the Maryland Population Research Center. This multidisciplinary center draws affiliated faculty with interests in population issues from across the social sciences including Sandra Hofferth (Family Studies), Mark Duggan, Judith Hellerstein, Ginger Zin (Economics), Odis Johnson, Sangeetha Madhavan (African American Studies), Michael Paolisso (Anthropology) and Martha Geores (Geography). In addition to its regular speaker series, the center offers an interdisciplinary training program as well as the new Certificate in Population Studies. Interested students are encouraged to learn more about the center’s activities and by visiting its website: www.popcenter.umd.edu.

Graduate Student Research Opportunities and Employment
There is considerable collaboration of faculty with students on research papers, and students are encouraged to present papers at professional meetings and submit these papers for publication. Demography students have many opportunities to obtain research training experience. Many demography faculty, both in sociology as well as at the Maryland Population Research Center, have externally funded research projects, which often support graduate student research assistants. Demography students are encouraged to present at conferences like the Annual Meetings of Population Association of America and those of American Sociological Association and to submit papers to professional journals. Papers emerging from second year papers, dissertations as well as research apprenticeship have been published in a wide range of journals including Demography, Social Science and Medicine and Gender and Society.
Political Sociology

Coordinator: Meyer Kestnbaum • 301-405-6431 • mkestn@umd.edu

The Political Sociology specialty area focuses on interrelations among the state, market and civil society. A major strength of the political sociology specialty is the breadth of teaching and research interests represented among its core faculty. Research being conducted by faculty in this area spans multiple levels of analysis and methodological approaches, with the department having strength in research on comparative historical approaches to the state, labor markets, political ideology, political economy, policy networks, civic engagement and collective action.

Faculty Interests
Nine regular faculty members identify political sociology as an area of interest: Patricia Collins, Kurt Kinsterbusch, Dana R. Fisher, Meyer Kestnbaum, Meredith Kleykamp, Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz, Mansoor Moaddel, Alan Neustadtl, and Christina Prell. The Political Sociology specialty connects easily with the manyfoci in the department and affiliated faculty conduct cross-cutting research among them. Faculty members’ expertise spans the areas of Political Economy, particularly Development and Social Stratification, Social Demography, Social Psychology, Race and Ethnicity, Military Sociology, Environmental Sociology, and Theory.

Center for Research on Military Organizations
University of Maryland Sociology faculty members especially involved in military sociology are Meyer Kestnbaum, Meredith Kleykamp, and Jeff Lucas. In 1995, the Center for Research on Military Organizations was established. This Center serves as a locus for faculty and graduate student research. At the start of the twenty-first century, the processes of peacekeeping, gender integration, and work-family adaptation remain central research concerns. The program has added a comparative and historical approach. In particular, the nature of warfare, ranging from the eighteenth and nineteenth century revolutions that helped define the relationship between citizenship and the state to the asymmetric conflicts of the 21st century have become central research topics.

Graduate Student Research Opportunities and Employment
In addition to working with individual faculty on research, graduate students can find employment as research assistants in a variety of projects within the sociology department and in the Washington DC area. Students are encouraged to present papers at regional and national professional meetings and to publish their work in professional journals. There are also many opportunities to develop teaching skills that will be helpful in future employment. Additionally, the department’s proximity to Washington, DC and the policy community therein provide ample opportunities for field research as well as applied experiences close to home.
The University of Maryland's Department of Sociology offers a rich and varied program in Social Psychology that spans multiple levels of analysis and methodological approaches. Three regular faculty members identify social psychology as a principal area of interest. Eight courses in social psychology are offered at the graduate level. We also offer a strong program of training in the methodology and statistics of contemporary social psychology. The social psychology area at Maryland has achieved national distinction (ranked 16th in the U.S. in 2006) and has been very popular among graduate students. Our faculty is unified through strengths in micro approaches to stratification (e.g., gender, race, and socioeconomic status) and also thrives in covering all three major social psychological perspectives (symbolic interaction, group processes, and social structure and personality) and several methodological approaches.

Associated Research Centers
Ties between the social psychology program and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, an interdisciplinary graduate training program, provide a unique resource for graduate student training in public opinion and survey methodology. Our social psychology faculty is also connected to the Maryland Population Research Center on campus. Our associated research centers provide opportunities for faculty and graduate research and training, as does the experimental laboratory for the study of group processes.

Faculty Interests
Sociology faculty with major research interests in social psychology include Long Doan, Jeff Lucas, Stanley Presser, and Rashawn Ray. Carmi Schooler joined our program in 2007 as Senior Research Scientist.

The social psychology faculty is actively engaged in numerous research projects. Doan is working on a project that examines the ways in which people’s gender and race jointly affect others’ interpretations of their emotion displays, and in turn, subsequent evaluations of them; Lucas and Schooler are PIs on a National Science Foundation grant to examine effects of social structures on trust, commitment, and cognitive orientation in groups; Presser’s research explores how the measurement of attitudes and behavior is intertwined in complex ways with social psychological processes; and Ray is currently examining how racially mixed and segregated communities influence physical activity levels across racial/ethnic groups and contribute to healthy lifestyles and obesity rates.

The social psychology faculty has diverse orientations and represents an array of theoretical perspectives. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies employed by social psychologists are represented in the faculty's empirical studies, including surveys, experiments, observational studies, content analysis, in-depth interviewing, and cross-cultural research designs.

Graduate Student Research Opportunities and Employment
In addition to working with individual faculty on research, graduate students can find employment as research assistants in a variety of projects within the department and in the Washington DC area. Students are encouraged to present papers at regional and national professional meetings and to publish their work in professional journals. There are also many opportunities to develop teaching skills that will be helpful in future employment, as social psychology is perennially popular in the sociology undergraduate curriculum. Recent graduates have positions as faculty members in both research universities and liberal arts colleges, as well as in government and nonprofit research organizations.
Stratification at the University of Maryland is grounded in the classical sociological theories, but goes beyond the original writings to contemporary theory and research. Our program includes special attention to questions about intersectionality in stratification systems, especially as they involve institutional, organizational and labor market dynamics, immigration and residential segregation. In addition, we offer a focus on the macro economy at the national and global levels.

**Faculty Interests**
The principal faculty active in the area include:

- **Philip Cohen**: Writes the blog Family Inequality and is the author of *The Family: Diversity, Inequality and Social Change*.
- **Patricia Hill Collins**: Author of *Black Feminist Thought* and *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*.
- **Dawn Dow**: Currently working on a book manuscript examining how African American middle-class mothers view and make decisions about work and family and how they approach parenting their children.
- **William Falk**: Author of *Rooted in Place: Family and Belonging in a Southern Black Community*.
- **Meredith Kleykamp**: Author of articles on labor market issues and discrimination against military veterans and organized labor.
- **Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz**: Co-author of *Unveiling Inequality: A World-Historical Perspective*.
- **Kris Marsh**: Author of articles on the black middle class, educational attainment and racial identification, and health disparities.
- **Alan Neustadtl**: Co-author of *Money Talks* and *Dollars and Votes*.
- **Julie Park**: Author of articles on the adaptation process of immigrants, including intergenerational mobility and residential segregation.
- **Christina Prell**: Author of *Social Network Analysis: Methodology, Theory, and Practice*.
- **Reeve Vanneman**: Co-author of *The American Perception of Class*, and *Gender Inequality at Work*.

**Graduate Student Research Opportunities and Employment**
Students are encouraged to present papers at meetings and to become involved in faculty research. Currently a number of students are collaborating with faculty in ongoing research projects. A wide variety of datasets are also available for student use. Students past and present have published journal articles individually and in collaboration while in the graduate program. Recent graduates with training in Stratification have accepted employment at such schools as University of California-Irvine, State University of New York-Stony Brook, The University of Utah, Tulane University, Union College, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
Faculty Background

- Feinian Chen, Professor University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2001
- Philip Cohen, Professor University of Maryland, 1999
- Patricia Hill Collins, Professor Brandeis University, 1984
- Long Doan, Assistant Professor Indiana University, 2016
- Dawn Dow, Assistant Professor University of California-Berkeley, 2012
- Sonalde Desai, Professor Stanford University, 1987
- Kurt Finsterbusch, Professor Columbia University, 1969
- Dana Fisher, Professor University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003
- Joan R. Kahn, Professor University of Michigan, 1985
- Meyer Kestnbaum, Associate Professor Harvard University, 1996
- Meredith Kleykamp, Associate Professor Princeton University, 2007
- Patricio Korzeniewicz, Professor SUNY-Binghamton, 1989
- Jeffrey Lucas, Professor University of Iowa, 2000
- Kris Marsh, Associate Professor University of Southern California, 2005
- Mansoor Moaddel, Professor University of Wisconsin, 1986
- Alan Neustadtl, Associate Professor University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 1987
- Julie Park, Associate Professor University of Southern California, 2003
- John Pease, Associate Professor Michigan State University, 1968
- Christina Prell, Assistant Professor Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2003
- Stanley Presser, Professor University of Michigan, 1977
- Rashawn Ray, Assistant Professor Indiana University, 2010
- Michael Rendall, Professor Brown University, 1993
- George Ritzer, Professor Cornell University, 1968
- Liana Sayer, Professor University of Maryland, 2001
- Reeve D. Vanneman, Professor Harvard University, 1975
- Andres Villarreal, Professor University of Chicago, 2002
- Wei-Hsin Yu, Professor University of Chicago, 1999