

Sociology Matters



NOVEMBER 2020

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends of Sociology,

What a year 2020 has been! What a year 2020 has been! A global pandemic, ongoing protests for racial justice, an epic smoke and wildfire season, the death of an icon of the Supreme Court, schools moving online for students of every age, and finally, after a long and suspenseful wait, the historic result of a pivotal election? Amid all these shifts, disruptions, and divisions, it is abundantly clear that we need social scientists to help make sense of the world...

[Read Chair's full letter](#)

Katherine Stovel

IN THIS EDITION



[Meet our newest Assistant Professor,](#)

Patricia Louie joined us this summer as a new Assistant Professor of Sociology. Pat received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in the study of health disparities. Just before she arrived in Seattle, Pat was quoted in The Washington Post about her research on the underrepresentation of darker skin tones in medical textbooks...



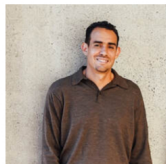
[Teaching and Learning During COVID-19](#)

Early in the pandemic, the lives of students and teachers alike were altered in previously unimaginable ways. We went into 'lockdown,' courses became remote, and we had to rely on Zoom to meet and hold classes. Rather than just recycling pre-pandemic material in a new format, several Sociology department instructors went beyond...



[Research Sheds Light on Discriminatory Rental Practices In Seattle Neighborhoods](#)

Graduate student Ian Kennedy has published a paper in Social Forces that takes a closer look at how rental ads may contribute to continuing Seattle's long history of residential segregation. The study was co-authored by alum Chris Hess (PhD 2019), Amandalynne Paullada and Sarah Chasins...



[An Unusual Journey](#)

John Leverso's path to a PhD in Sociology is not a typical one: a young man who grew up in Chicago, he was incarcerated from 2001 - 2012. While serving his sentence John earned his GED, and then began taking classes through a local community college with the long-term goal of earning a bachelor's degree. John wrote his application to the University of Illinois at Chicago on a prison typewriter...

IN THE NEWS

Katherine Beckett in the Seattle Times

[With coronavirus, prison and jail sentences could become death sentences](#)

Alexes Harris, in Newsweek twice!

[Our Double Pandemic Does Not Need More Fines and Fees Companies Can Keep Their Hollow Statements on Racism. We Need Real Change](#)

Yuan Hsiao in the Washington Post

[Are Black Lives Matter protesters peaceful or violent? Depends on whom you ask](#)

Steve Pfaff in the Washington Post

[U.S. school principals discriminate against Muslims and atheists, our study finds](#)

Pat Louie quoted in a Washington Post article about the **[representation of race and skin tone in medical textbook imagery](#)**.

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Graduate Student **[Charles Lanfear awarded the University of Washington's Excellence in Teaching Award, the Highest Honor for Instruction.](#)**

Sarah Quinn's book **[American Bonds How Credit Markets Shaped a Nation](#)**, has been recognized with the Viviana Zelizer Award for Best Book in Economic Sociology and the Alice Amsden Best Book Award from the Society of Socio-Economics.

Katherine Beckett and Heather Evans were selected as the recipients of COSSA's 2020 Public Impact Award. COSSA is the Consortium of Social Science Associations, and this award recognizes them for research that led to the Washington State Supreme Court's unanimous decision to eliminate the death penalty in the state of Washington.

Graduating Senior **[Fa'aumu Kaimana was awarded the 2020 President's Medal](#)**, reflecting their distinguished academic record. Fa'aumu double majored in Sociology and Medical Anthropology.

Cambridge University press published **[Steve Pfaff and Michael Hechter's book The Genesis of Rebellion](#)** over the summer. We workshoped this terrific book extensively in the department, so we're all pleased to see it out!

2020 Departmental Student Awards

- *Woolston Award for Academic Excellence* - Julia Koh and Logan Young
- *Al Black Award for Community Service* - Fa'aumu Kaimana
- *Best Performance in the Master's Degree* - Selen Güler
- *Herbert L. Costner Award* - Marco Brydolf-Horwitz

SUPPORT US

Support our students, program, and UW:

- **Strengthen our department** through the **[Friends of Sociology Fund](#)** which is perhaps the single most important resource for the department. Gifts to this fund provide unrestricted support, particularly to students most affected by Covid-19.
- **Donate to help out students** who are impacted by this crisis - **[UW Seattle COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund](#)**.
- **If you are a student in need** or know a student who needs support, please direct them to the **[Student Emergency Aid Request Form](#)**.

Any gift — large or small — is sincerely appreciated!

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