

Section on Mental Health

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From the Chair: Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University



It has been an honor to serve as the Chair of the Section this past year. I am very excited about our upcoming program at the 2019 Annual Meeting in New York City. We have a great program planned and several important events that I want to highlight here. First though, let me thank our hard-working Section Council team from this year who have made these events happen:

Secretary/Treasurer – Brea Louise Perry (Indiana University); Nominations Chair - Lijun Song (Vanderbilt University); Publications Committee Chair- Patricia Drentea (University of Alabama-Birmingham); Membership Committee Chair – Christy Erving (Vanderbilt University); Section Award Committee Chair – Teresa Scheid (UNC-Charlotte); Student Representative – Tanya Whitworth (University of Massachusetts); Council Member-at-large – Jennifer Caputo (Max Planck Institute) and our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor – Richard Adams (Kent State). This has truly been a team effort so thanks to all who have made this year's work possible. I also extend a warm welcome and thanks to our new Council members including our incoming Chair, Kristen Marcussen (Kent State University); Chair-Elect - Pamela B. Jackson (Indiana University); Council Member-at-large Karen Van Gundy (University of New Hampshire); Membership Committee Chair - Matthew Andersson (Baylor University); and Publications Committee Chair – Ning Hsieh (Michigan State University).

Section Sessions

We have 3 exciting sessions planned.

1 - Social Justice Approaches to Mental Health: Addressing Marginalization, Exclusion, and Racism

Sat, August 10, 8:30 to 10:10am, New York Hilton, Concourse, Concourse B

2 - Mental Health at the Intersection of the Criminal Justice and Education Systems

Sat, August 10, 2:30 to 4:10pm, New York Hilton, Second Floor, Gibson

FROM THE CHAIRS DESK (CONTINUED)**3 - Open Topic on Sociology of Mental Health**

Sat, August 10, 10:30 to 11:30am, New York Hilton, Fourth Floor, New York

In addition, our **Business Meeting** will be held **Sat, August 10, 11:30am to 12:10pm, New York Hilton, Fourth Floor, New York.** This year we will return to our tradition of holding our Award Ceremony, including the Pearlín Award Lecture, during the first half of our business meeting.

Finally, please also check out the **Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtables on Monday, August 12, 8:30 to 9:30am, New York Hilton, Third Floor, Trianon Ballroom** as there will be papers of interest to many in the mental health section. There is also an ASA Regular Session, **Social Marginalization and Its Consequences on Mental Health, Monday, August 12, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Sheraton New York, Third Floor, Liberty 5**

Section Awards and Pearlín Lecture

Our section awards, including the Pearlín Lecture, will be presented Saturday August 10th, 11:30 – 12:30, during first half of the Section Business Meeting. This year Professor Robin Simon, Wake Forest University, is the well-deserved recipient of the Leonard I. Pearlín Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Mental Health. Robin has been active in multiple ASA sections, and has served as the Chair of both the Section on Sociology of Mental Health and Section on Sociology of Emotions. She has received numerous awards from the ASA, including most recently the 2018 Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Understanding of Gender and Society from the Southern Sociological Society. She has a distinguished record of research that has reshaped the sociology of mental health. Her work bridges sociological subfields, including gender, social psychology, family sociology, and medical sociology. We on the

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Awards Committee are thrilled that she will be this year's Pearlín Award recipient. The 2019 Best Publication Award will be presented to Jason Schnittker for his book, "The Diagnostic System: Why the Classification of Psychiatric Disorders is Necessary, Difficult, and Never Settled" with Columbia University Press. Bianca Manago is this year's winner of the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health Best Dissertation Award for her dissertation completed at Indiana University entitled, "The Role of Mental Health Labels in Stigma and Status Processes".

Finally, Patricia Louie is the recipient of our first Student Publication Award for her paper entitled, "Revisiting the Cost of Skin Color: Discrimination, Mastery, and Mental Health Among Black Adolescents", now forthcoming in *Society and Mental Health*.

Congratulations to all of you and a special thanks to Teresa Scheid for chairing the Publication Committee and leading the effort to choose our award winners from among our many worthy nominees.

Business Meeting

Please plan to stay after the Pearlín Award lecture for our annual section Business Meeting. The agenda items include: (1) discussion of the section budget and membership numbers, (2) ongoing efforts to increase section membership, (3) our section mentorship initiative, and (4) news about the section journal, *Society and Mental Health*. As always, we welcome input from members on all of these issues as well as proposed new initiatives to support and enhance the important role of our section in ASA and beyond. So please attend and help us continue to support scholars working in the Sociology of Mental Health.

Mentorship Initiative

Our mentorship initiative has continued throughout the Spring with our 10 teams of mentors and mentees connecting virtually. They will be meeting to continue this effort in

NYC at the Annual Meeting, and we will all come together for an informal gathering an hour before the Section reception on Monday evening. I look forward to learning from the current participants about the ways we can continue and improve and support these efforts in future years. Finally, I again want to thank our student representative Tanya Whitworth for her efforts on this initiative.

Reception

This year we will again be hosting a joint section reception with Medical Sociology with section chair, and our Secretary/Treasurer Brea Perry. The reception will be held on site on Monday, August 12th at 6:30 pm. Please come and enjoy what is always a fun time to connect with colleagues and friends and meet some new ones.

See you in NYC!

Alisa

Please Encourage Membership in our Section! Be sure to renew YOUR membership. Remember to recommend our Section to graduate students. You can give a gift membership to a graduate student. If you are a graduate student and would like to become a member of the Mental Health Section please contact Membership Committee Chair, Matthew Andersson, Baylor University (Matthew.Andersson@baylor.edu).

IN MEMORIAM OF CAROL S. ANESHENSEL

1947 – 2019



Carol S. Aneshensel, Research Professor and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed away on June 14, 2019, in Santa Monica.

After receiving her Ph.D. from Cornell University, Carol's first appointment was at the University of Minnesota, but she soon moved to UCLA where she would stay for almost 40 years. Carol quickly emerged as one of the pre-eminent researchers in stress research. As a member of the *Consortium for Research in Stress Processes*, she contributed to three volumes on central issues in stress research and helped sharpen the collective work of that group. She enjoyed a number of collaborations with prominent researchers in the sociology of health and mental health, most notably Leonard I. Pearlin. Carol and Len led two major studies concerning the stress of caregiving. Their investigation of the experiences of persons providing care to individuals with Alzheimer's disease culminated in a highly regarded monograph, *Profiles in Caregiving: The Unexpected Career*, which provided a unique synthesis of the stress process paradigm with the life course perspective. A second study of caregivers to individuals living with HIV/AIDS

further contributed to this synthesis. These are but two examples of her enduring contributions to the field.

Over the past decade, Carol's research focused on the ways in which social inequality in neighborhoods affects the health of persons in middle- and older-age. Her work has always been a model of rigorous quantitative analysis in the service of precise theoretical thinking. Her well-received book, *Theory-Based Data Analysis for the Social Sciences*, provides a lucid model for the kind of approach that was a hallmark of her career.

Carol had a unique intellectual style: pairing clarity and vision is not an obvious combination, yet she regularly achieved both in her work. She did not suffer ambiguity gladly; she saw beyond the trends and inertial components of research agendas; she envisioned causation and explanation in original ways. Her work was ambitious, a few steps ahead of the cutting edge, but also pinpoint clear. Carol made essential distinctions among concepts that others had not even considered. Her work on the appropriate positioning of the role of stress in explaining health and mental health disparities had widespread influence across disciplines, but it also raised a difficult point: stick to one dependent variable at your own peril, with the accompanying risk of fundamentally misleading the field about the sources of health disparities. Research traditions sometimes get mired in hidden assumptions that are too easily accepted: Carol could see the role of these assumptions, and as a result make clear where the uncertainties and ambiguities in research were rooted. She had a distinct talent for this. When apparent conceptual or theoretical progress was not rooted in operational anchors, she was skeptical. Everyone, every research area, would benefit from her perspectives on research in general.

Carol was a strong advocate for the sociology of mental health as a distinctive field within

sociology. With Jo C. Phelan, she edited the first edition of the *Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*, which was named the outstanding publication by the ASA Section on the Sociology of Mental Health in 2003. This was only one of the many awards that Carol received throughout her career. She was named a Dean's Distinguished Scholar at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She was recognized on the Institute of Scientific Information's Highly Cited Researchers List. She received the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health in 2004 from the ASA Sociology of Mental Health Section and the Leo G. Reeder Award for Distinguished Contributions to Medical Sociology from the ASA Medical Sociology Section in 2008. Both awards had special meaning for Carol. She collaborated extensively with Len Pearlin and, early in her career, she assumed leadership of a large study that had been launched by Leo Reeder after he was tragically killed in an airplane accident. Carol's leadership and mentorship are models of academic service. She supervised countless theses and dissertations at UCLA. She was a regular participant in NIH grant review panels, bringing a sociological perspective to these processes. She served as Chair of the Sociology of Mental Health Section and held executive positions in the Medical Sociology and SALC Sections.

Carol was also a role model for younger sociologists and public health scientists. She was unstinting in providing assistance and advice to young scientists who were launching their careers.

With colleagues, she was supportive, easily helpful, but also carefully and appropriately critical, pushing everyone to think through their claims. She could be charmingly contrarian, but never without purpose. If someone claimed an idea was trivial, she could save it. If someone claimed something

basic was missing, her response might be: prove it.

Most of all, Carol was one of the very best friends one can imagine. You knew where you stood with Carol. It would be difficult to claim she was easy-going, and this too was part of her contribution to our profession. When you were a friend, you were a good friend, a close friend, someone you could disagree with, but also knew that respect was there, allowing a safe zone for disagreement.

Nothing was more important to Carol than her family. Her face lit up every time she would talk about her daughter, Gay, and her son and daughter-in-law, Clayton and Jill. She was even more effusive about her grandchildren, Luke and Sadie.

Carol leaves a legacy of scholarship and mentorship, but most importantly, she leaves us with memories of many years of friendship and acts of kindness. One could not have a better friend and colleague.

Notes of condolence and remembrance to be shared with Carol's loved ones can be directed to the Fielding School's Department of Community Health Sciences, chsmemories@ph.ucla.edu.

William R. Avison
Western University

Blair Wheaton
University of Toronto

2019 MENTAL HEALTH SECTION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to this year's winners. Look for more on each winner in the Fall/Winter Newsletter.

Leonard I. Pearlin Award
Robin W. Simon, Wake Forest University.

Best Publication Award.
Jason Schnittker, University of Pennsylvania

Best Dissertation Award.
Bianca Manago, Vanderbilt University

Best Graduate Student Paper Award.
Patricia Louie, University of Toronto.



114th ASA Annual Meeting New York, NY, USA, August 10-13, 2019

Tribute to R. Jay Turner

Fri, August 9, 7:00 to 9:00pm, New York Hilton, Floor: Second Floor, Gibson

Regular Session Mental Health

Social Marginalization and Its Consequences on Mental Health
Mon, August 12, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Sheraton New York, Floor: Third Floor, Liberty 5

Kimberly Huyser (University of New Mexico)
khuyers@unm.edu

Section on the Sociology of Mental Health Awards Ceremony and Business Meeting

Sat, August 10, 11:30am to 12:30pm, New York Hilton, Floor: Fourth Floor, New York

Pearlin Award Lecture by Robin Simon

Section on the Sociology of Mental Health Council Meeting

Sun, August 11, 9:00 to 10:00am, Offsite, The Terrace Club

*Sociology of Mental Health Section***Social Justice Approaches to Mental Health: Addressing Marginalization, Exclusion, and Racism**

Sat, August 10, 8:30 to 10:10am, New York Hilton, Floor: Concourse, Concourse B

The Sociology of Mental Health has a long and rich history of social justice. For this session, we seek papers that address sources of social marginalization and exclusion, such as stigma and racism, and focus attention on the relationships among exclusion and mental health and well-being. In addition, this session will include papers that focus on the social consequences/exclusion of mental illness and seeking mental health care. Papers addressing strategies to address these consequences at the individual, interpersonal, clinical, and policy levels are also welcome.

Organizer and Presider
Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University,
al.lincoln@neu.edu

Open Topic on Sociology of Mental Health (1 hour).

Sat, August 10, 10:30 to 11:30am, New York Hilton, Floor: Fourth Floor, New York

Business Meeting to follow (11:30am-12:30pm).

Organizer
Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University,
al.lincoln@neu.edu

Presider
Christy Erving (Vanderbilt University)
christy.l.erving@vanderbilt.edu

Mental Health at the Intersection: Mental Health and the Criminal Justice and Education Systems

Sat, August 10, 2:30 to 4:10pm, New York Hilton, Floor: Second Floor, Gibson

There is no more powerful stereotype than that of mental illness as a source of violent and dangerous behavior. While inaccurate, in fact, mental illness has been criminalized with the criminal justice system providing the majority of mental health care in the U.S. today. Likewise, recent school shootings have also focused attention on mental illness and violent behavior. The papers in this session focus on the complex issues raised when we consider mental health at the intersection of these two complex systems and share a focus on the institutional or organizational context of mental health.

Organizer and Presider:
Teresa Scheid (University of North Carolina -- Charlotte) tlscheid@uncc.edu

Joint Reception: Section on Medical Sociology and Sociology of Mental Health

Mon, August 12, 6:30 to 8:30pm, New York Hilton, Floor: Second Floor, Regent

The Sociology Program at NSF has organized a session at this year's ASA Annual Meeting on funding opportunities at NSF beyond standard Sociology Program Grants.

National Science Foundation: Beyond Standard Grants: NSF's Ten Big Ideas

Mon, August 12, 10:30am to 12:10pm, New York Hilton, Third Floor Mercury Ballroom

Organizers: Joe Whitmeyer & Toby Parcel

Other Conferences in New York:[The Society for the Study of Social Problems](#)

69th Annual Meeting August 9-11, 2019
Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, NY
Illuminating the SOCIAL in Social Problems

GRADUATE STUDENTS ON THE JOB MARKET



Name: Caitlin Clarke, PhD

Affiliation: Kinesiology and Community Health

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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Adjunct Faculty, Sociology, Liberal Studies,
Kinesiology and Health Promotion

California State Polytechnic University
Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona)

clclarke@cpp.edu

Dissertation Title: *Exercise Science Depression Studies: A Cultural, Interpretive, and Science Studies Perspective*

Co-advisors:

Synthia Sydnor and Melissa Littlefield

Defended December 4, 2018

My dissertation, and larger research aim, takes an interdisciplinary approach to exercise science research on depression, providing a cultural interpretive and science studies perspective. I locate this work at the intersections of multiple fields including kinesiology, sport sociology, disability studies, body studies, and science and technology studies (STS). I analyzed 13 meta-analyses and systematic reviews focused on exercise interventions for depression, published between 2013-2017. Based on my findings, I challenge exercise science's framing of depression as a costly

societal burden, exercise as prescription drug, and the use of prescreening tools as technologies for identifying and rating depressive symptoms. I argue that the promotion of exercise as treatment for depression requires a more critical cultural perspective. Such an analysis does not aim to undermine exercise interventions. Rather, I am interested in arguments made by researchers regarding the relationship between exercise and depression. I am primarily interested in studying how exercise science depression studies view depression through their descriptions, and definition choices. My findings offer further insight into the validity of those claims as well as suggestions for future research. Based on my findings, particularly in relation to the framework of depression as a societal burden and the uncritical use of clinical prescreening tools, I argue exercise science must be wary of promoting *affective hardening* through exercise prescription. I argue that this notion of *affective hardening* is an extension of historic attempts to harden bodies through physical activity, rooted in ableism and stigma. I use my findings to highlight the ways in which research publications in exercise science depression studies help to create and maintain the social structure within which we operate. I conclude by advocating selected alternative socioculturally based frameworks that better incorporate empathy for people with mental illness.

Post dissertation and graduation, I extend this work in collaboration with Dr. Brynn Adamson's work on MS to address the model of "Exercise is Medicine" and the use of exercise interventions for mental health and rehabilitation for chronic illness. Separately, I consider the concept of exercising for the economy. I address the ways in which exercise interventions are promoted and justified on economic grounds in relation to the 'burden' of the disease. What does it mean to conceive of people with depression as laboring bodies in this context? I consider

the associated implications in light of previous analyses of fitness and the nation/state (Markula & Pringle 2006; Rail 2012). I explore the concept of mental health as global assemblage of technoscience (Prasad 2017; Sassen 2017) in order to address the promotion of mental health exercise interventions as economic relief.



Name: Molly Copeland

Affiliation: Duke University

Email: mc418@duke.edu

Dissertation Title: When Peers Help and Harm: Adolescent Social Structure and Mental Health

I am a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University researching social networks and health. My research uses quantitative methods and network analysis to examine how social ties help and harm mental health at key stages of the life course. I examine the interplay between network structure and context to examine how gender, peer behavior, and friends' health shape pathways linking social ties to mental health and health behaviors. I have led projects published in leading networks and development journals, including *Network Science* and *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, that address the puzzle that network isolation presents to theories of substance use, as isolation itself can spur drug use, but isolated teens may be less able to access illicit substances. This work distinguishes theoretically distinct network isolation profiles to identify different risks for

using substances as self-medication and opportunities for deviance across adolescence by gender.

My dissertation, "When Peers Help and Harm: Adolescent Social Structure and Mental Health," investigates how social integration in adolescent peer networks predicts depressive symptoms and self-harm differently by gender. I disentangle structures of integration at the micro-, meso-, and macro-network levels, among close friends, peer groups, and global positions in the overall network. I find greater global connections support mental well-being, although boys experience increased risks if deeply embedded in peer groups, while girls see greater detriments from friends' poor mental health and additional benefits from tight-knit close friend groups. This work expands upon my work with co-authors on self-cutting published in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* to provide one of the first examinations of gendered processes linking network structure and self-harm.

Other ongoing research projects examine how peer integration as an adolescent persistently affects mental well-being into adulthood, analyze under-studied network features that better capture social processes related to stress and support affecting mental health, and apply the stress process framework to test associations between friends' behavior, self-harm, and suicidality. In addition to research, I have taught courses using team-based learning principles, lectured on networks and health, and advised service-learning courses studying education inequality. My research has been supported with the Duke Interdisciplinary Behavioral Research Center Award, James B. Duke Award, Katherine Goodman Stern Fellowship, Vorsanger-Smith Scholar award, and University Scholars Program Graduate Fellowship. I look forward to pursuing my research, investing in teaching, and contributing to the discipline as I transition to a faculty position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

José Muñoz was selected for the ASA Task Force on First-Generation and Working Class Persons in Sociology.

Publications:

Muñoz, José and José Collazo. 2019. "Promoting Health from Outside the State: La Comunidad, Migrants, and Hometown Associations." *Migration Letters*, 16 (2):155-164

Deirdre Lanesskog, José Muñoz, and Koressa Castillo. 2019. "Language is not enough: institutional supports for Spanish speaking client-worker engagement in child welfare." *Journal of Public Child Welfare*: 1-23.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2019.1621235>

2019-2020 SECTION OFFICERS

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Awards Committee Chair: Teresa Scheid, University of North Carolina – Charlotte

Nominations Committee Chair: Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University

Publications Committee Chair: Patricia Drentea, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Student Member: Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, University of Massachusetts Amherst

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I want to make sure everyone saw the "Tribute to R. Jay Turner" on Friday, Aug. 9, 7-9pm in the ASA Conference Schedule on pg. 5.

I continue to ask everyone to send me information about your activities that you would like to share with Section members. Please put "newsletter" in the title of the email.

Here is a partial list of other possible contributions for future newsletters:

-Graduate or post-doctoral students on the market and would like to be profiled. Please send your picture, title of your dissertation, email address, affiliation, and a brief statement of your work (200-300 words).

-Upcoming conferences, calls for papers, grant opportunities or special issues of journals.

-Newly published books by section members. Please include publication date and publisher information.

-Congratulatory information (e.g., promotions, new jobs, awards, honors, grants).

-Short articles on topics that cross boundaries with other sections, such as animal-human interactions and mental health. We ask that you keep submissions brief (no more than 500 words).

-Descriptions of class activities/books/films for use in undergraduate sociology of mental health and illness classes or general tips and strategies for teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

Don't forget to look at other Associations for conference presentations:

[Society for the Study of Social Problems](#)
[American Public Health Association](#)
[AcademyHealth](#)

If there are other venues where sociologists can present their work, please let me know. Please visit the Section's website for resources and links to graduate programs focusing on mental health and illness.

The next Newsletter will come out this Fall several months after the August meetings.

It is a perfect place to profile graduate students who are on the job market.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to Katie Gary, the Graduate Student Newsletter Editor. She was very helpful in getting this newsletter out.

Thanks, Richard

SMH

SOCIETY AND MENTAL HEALTH

[The Journal of the ASA Section on the Sociology of Mental Health](#)

Editor: Timothy J Owens, Kent State University and
Susan Roxburgh, Kent State University
Past Editor Elaine Wethington, Cornell University

Editorial Scope of SMH: Society and Mental Health publishes original articles that apply sociological concepts and methods to the understanding of the social origins of mental health and illness, the social consequences for persons with mental illness, and the organization and financing of mental health services and care. Its editorial policy favors manuscripts that advance the sociology of mental health and illness, stimulate further research, inform treatments and policy and reflect the diversity of interests of its readership.

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically at
<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/smh>

For more information about the Journal contact:

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