

ASA

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH

Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2025



New logo, same mission

Promoting scholarship, connection, and care in the sociology of mental health

Inside the Issue

- **A Thank-You Letter from the Section Chair 1-2**
- **Congratulations to the 2025 Award Recipients 3-4**
- **Introducing the 2025 Pearlin Awardee 5-6**
- **Success of Student Members 7**
- **2025 ASA Conference Sessions 8-9**
- **News From Section Members 10-11**
- **Call for Papers 12**
- **2025 Section Election Candidates 13**
- **Final Thoughts from the Newsletter Editor 14**
- **Messages from other Organizations 15-17**
- **Thank You to Our Section Council 18**
- **Thanks to the 2025 Awards Committee 19**

Section Websites

https://www.asanet.org/asa_sections/sociology-of-mental-health
<https://www.kent.edu/sociology/asa-mental-health-section>

Section Bluesky Profile

<https://bsky.app/profile/asasmh.bsky.social>

Prepared by

Teresa L. Scheid & Zhe Zhang

Please send new announcements or questions to
tlscheid@uncc.edu.

A Thank-You Letter from the Section Chair

As we head toward the ASA Annual Meeting, which marks the end of my term as Chair of the Section on Sociology of Mental Health, I want to take this opportunity to say one heartfelt word: **thank you**.

It has been a true honor to serve this vibrant, compassionate, and intellectually rich community. Over the past year, I have been continually inspired by your dedication, generosity, and resilience. Whether through your scholarship, service, mentorship, or presence, each of you has helped make this section not only productive but truly meaningful.

I am deeply grateful to all our council members, committee chairs, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Your collective efforts have shaped a remarkable year for our section. I am honored to work alongside such a thoughtful, engaged, and generous community.

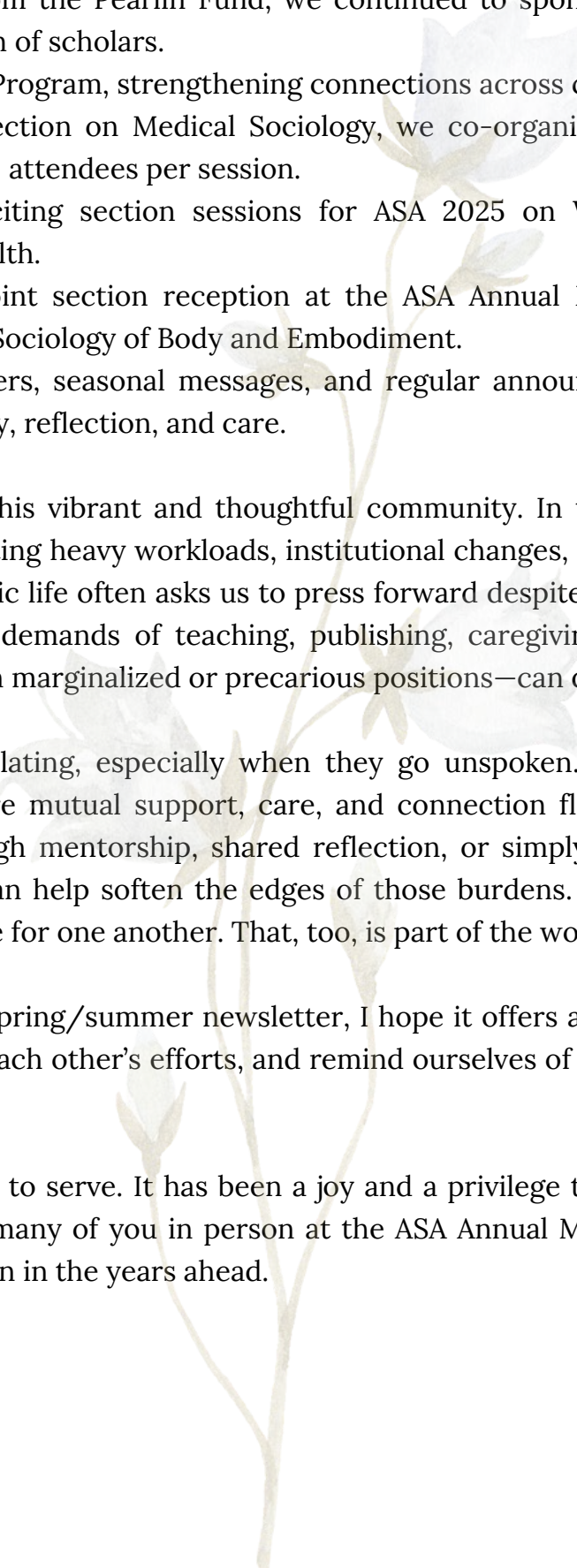
Thank you to Drs. Eric Wright (Past Chair), Anna Mueller (Chair-Elect), Lucie Kalousová (Secretary/Treasurer), Molly Copeland (Chair of the Nominating Committee), Teresa Scheid (Chair of the Publications Committee), Lacee Satcher (Membership Chair), Marisa Young (Chair of the Awards Committee), Christy Erving (Council Member), Emily Ekl (Student Representative), Richard Adams (Section Webmaster), and Fred E. Markowitz (Editor of *Society and Mental Health*).

Special thanks to the three section members who served on the Awards Committee: Drs. Rachel Kahn Best, Philip J. Pettis, and Elaine Wethington. Thank you to our ASA 2025 section session organizers: Drs. Deborah Carr, Rachel Donnelly, and Scott Schieman. Thank you to student volunteer Zhe Zhang for co-editing our section newsletters. Thank you to Leticia Gonzalez of the Irsay Institute at Indiana University for her assistance in refining the final pin design.

And thank you to the following mentors who are generously volunteering their time in the Mentoring Program: Drs. Seth Abrutyn, Mia Brantley, Robyn Brown, Jason Houle, Ning Hsieh, Amy Johnson, Amy Kroska, Diego Leal, Bruce Link, Alisa Lincoln, Anna Mueller, Bernice Pescosolido, David Russell, Lijun Song, Alexandra Vinson, Amy Wong, and Owen Whooley. We look forward to sharing mentoring photos in the next issue of our newsletter.

Over the past year, we've accomplished a great deal together:

- We created our new official section logo, a symbol of our shared identity and vision.
- We will distribute section pins featuring the logo at the ASA Annual Meeting—please stop by the business meeting or the joint reception to pick one up!
- We launched a new section profile on Bluesky to expand our visibility and engagement.

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- We conducted and analyzed a student member survey to better understand and support emerging scholars.
 - With generous support from the Pearlin Fund, we continued to sponsor student memberships and support the next generation of scholars.
 - We revived the Mentoring Program, strengthening connections across career stages.
 - In partnership with the Section on Medical Sociology, we co-organized the Mentor of the Month series, which drew over 100 attendees per session.
 - We will organize two exciting section sessions for ASA 2025 on Work and Mental Health and Singlehood and Mental Health.
 - We will co-sponsor the joint section reception at the ASA Annual Meeting with the Sections on Medical Sociology and the Sociology of Body and Embodiment.
 - And through our newsletters, seasonal messages, and regular announcements, we have worked to foster a sense of community, reflection, and care.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant and thoughtful community. In this challenging and uncertain climate, many of us are navigating heavy workloads, institutional changes, and personal challenges—some visible, others unseen. Academic life often asks us to press forward despite uncertainty, grief, burnout, or personal stress. The ongoing demands of teaching, publishing, caregiving, and confronting structural barriers—especially for those in marginalized or precarious positions—can quietly weigh on us over time.

These experiences can be isolating, especially when they go unspoken. My hope is that our section continues to be a space where mutual support, care, and connection flourish alongside our scholarly commitments. Whether through mentorship, shared reflection, or simply knowing we are not alone, I believe that our community can help soften the edges of those burdens. We may not always have easy answers, but we can hold space for one another. That, too, is part of the work.

As we prepare the upcoming spring/summer newsletter, I hope it offers a small space of connection—to spotlight our work, celebrate each other's efforts, and remind ourselves of the shared purpose that brings us together.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a joy and a privilege to help nurture this space with you. I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the ASA Annual Meeting and to cheering on the continued growth of our section in the years ahead.

With appreciation and care,
Lijun Song
Vanderbilt University

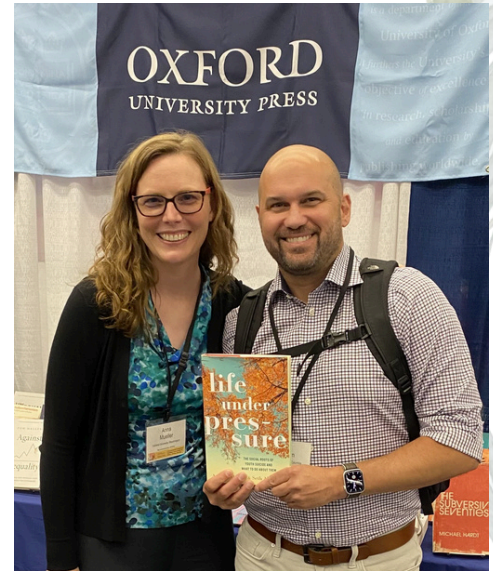
Congratulations to the 2025 Award Recipients

Pamela Braboy Jackson: the Leonard I. Pearlman Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health



Anna Mueller & Seth Abrutyn: the Best Book Award

Life Under Pressure: The Social Roots of Youth Suicide and What to Do About Them (Oxford University Press, 2024).



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Katie Billings: the Best Dissertation Award

"Surviving Suicide." Completed at University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2024.



Alex Barnard: Honorable Mention for the Best Book Award

Conservatorship: Inside California's System of Coercion and Care for Mental Illness (Columbia University Press, 2023).



Amy Johnson, Christopher Levesque, Neil Lewis Jr., & Asad L. Asad: the Best Article Award

“Deportation Threat Predicts Latino U.S. Citizens’ and Non-Citizens’ Psychological Distress, 2011-2018.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2024).



Byungkyu Lee & Bernice Pescosolido: Honorable Mention for the Best Article Award

“Misery Needs Company: Contextualizing the geographic and Temporal Link between Unemployment and Suicide.” *American Sociological Review* (2024).



Best Student Article Award — Tie

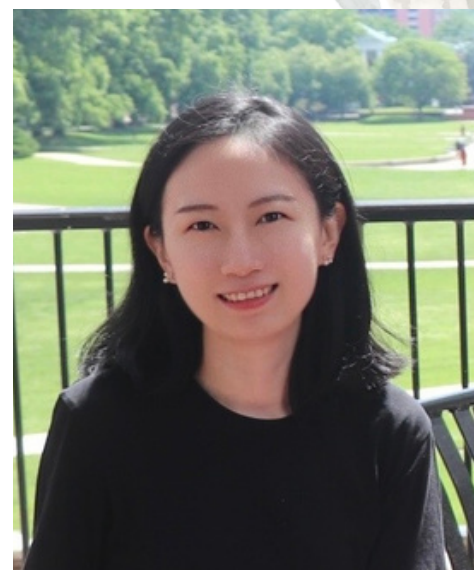
Co-Winner(s): Emily Ekl & Benjamine Gallati

“The Moderating Effect of Values on the Relationship Between Subjective Social Status and Depression: Evidence from MIDUS.” *Society and Mental Health* (2023).



Co-Winner: Jingwen Liu

“Racial/Ethnic Differences in Living Arrangements, Distant Relations, and Later-Life Mental Health.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* (2024).



Introducing the 2025 Pearlin Awardee

I am delighted to write this statement for Dr. **Pamela Braboy Jackson**—the 2025 American Sociological Association (ASA) Mental Health Section’s Leonard I. Pearlin Awardee for Distinguished Contributions. Dr. Jackson is currently a Provost Professor of Sociology and the Associate Vice President for Faculty & Belonging at Indiana University (IU).

Dr. Jackson’s research focusing on the nexus of mental health, social psychology, family, and social stratification makes her one of the top experts in the country, specifically on issues of minority mental health and family. She has produced pioneering scholarship at the intersection of social role engagement, social status, and mental health. Her first publication on this topic, “Role Occupancy and Minority Mental Health” (*JHSB*, 1997), is a key reading for scholars interested in how race/ethnicity influences the associations among work, family, parental roles, and their relationship to mental health. Dr. Jackson’s follow-up study (*JHSB*, 2004) examined the extent to which role sequence order was related to mental health, and another study (2005) assessed race and gender variation in social role sequencing.

Most recently, Dr. Jackson and Dr. Christy Erving (former student, Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin) published a study that investigated racial distinctions in the psychological effects of social roles (e.g., parent, employee, spouse) in *JHSB*. Their study was the first to use three nationally representative data sources to examine how social roles affect the mental health of nine U.S. ethnic groups representing 92% of the U.S. population. They show that although social roles are generally associated with lower levels of psychological distress, because of racism in society, social roles often do not have the same psychological remunerations for racial and ethnic minorities when compared to their White peers.

Dr. Jackson’s scholarship focusing on the intersections between race, socioeconomic position, and mental health set the stage for contemporary scholarship on the diminishing health returns of higher education among Black Americans. For instance, her earlier work demonstrated the stress-related occupational challenges of Black elites (i.e., high income, high occupational prestige) that in turn, have negative implications for their socioemotional well-being. At the time her first article was published on this topic (1995 in *Social Forces*), very little scholarship focused on upper-income Black Americans. Dr. Jackson’s work demonstrated that access to resources (e.g., higher educational attainment, occupational prestige) did not have the expected health-protective effects among Black Americans, necessitating a new research agenda to better understand how stress impacts the Black middle class. Her work with former student Dr. Jason Cummings (Endowed Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago) examines how race, socioeconomic status, and gender intersect to produce disparities (2008, *Research on Aging*).

As Principal Investigator over the coveted Sociological Research Practicum (SRP) in the Department of Sociology at IU, Dr. Jackson organized and supervised the Family, Work, and Health Study. The methodological creativity of studying Black, White, and Mexican American families across the United States while collecting quantitative and qualitative data is extremely unique. Dr. Jackson was also open to including graduate students' questions and interests in the study. This is a rare occurrence but an important one for developing and empowering scholars, particularly scholars of color. Data from the SRP culminated in the form of a book which Dr. Jackson co-authored with me, entitled: *How Families Matter: Simply Complicated Intersections of Race, Gender, and Work* (Rowman & Littlefield). This book breaks new theoretical ground in scholarship on race, gender, work, and family by examining how aracially/ethnically diverse group of forty-six families grapple with queries such as: "who do we consider to be a part of our family and can anyone achieve family-life balance?" Dr. Jackson extended her expertise on family by co-editing a book volume with Muna Adem (Assistant Professor, University of Maryland) that examines contemporary issues among communities of color in the U.S.

In the classroom, Dr. Jackson can be seen teaching *Sociology of Mental Health* and *Theories of Social Psychology* in In Sheldon Stryker Room in what we call "The SISR" (Karl Schuessler Institute for Social Research) at IU. Besides her intellect, wit, and welcoming demeanor, Dr. Jackson has helped many minority and/or first-generation students navigate Bloomington and the "Ivory Tower." Her current title is fitting. In many regards, Dr. Jackson helped many of us process racialized experiences, develop healthy coping strategies, establish belonging, and stay focused on our goal of obtaining our PhDs.

Additionally, Dr. Jackson has demonstrated sustained commitment to providing professional service to the discipline of sociology more broadly. She was recently Chair of the ASA Mental Health Section, previous Chair of the SSSP Mental Health Section, and held council positions in the ASA Social Psychology and Medical Sociology sections. In addition, she served on the editorial board of multiple premier sociology journals including *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *American Sociological Review*. Dr. Jackson also has taken on multiple high intensity service roles at Indiana University. For instance, she became Founding Director of the Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society (CRESS) during a critical period in the department and university. She has also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, and a Faculty Advisor to the IU Sociology Club.

As I close, it is important to note that these written words do not simply represent my own. Rather, they represent nine former students and mentees of Dr. Jackson who nominated her for this prestigious award. Dr. Jackson helped all of us matriculate through the Department of Sociology at IU and obtain faculty and research positions. So, thank you, Pam, for how you have invested in us. You have significantly advanced the field through innovative research, mentoring, and service to the sociology of mental health community and our great discipline more broadly.

Rashawn Ray
University of Maryland

Success of Student Members

Kate LaForge, University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Kate LaForge, who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “Emergent Adults and Suicidal Ideation: Help-seeking as Relational Practice” in May 2025, studies suicide-related help-seeking. Her dissertation project, informed by her volunteer work as a crisis text counselor, was motivated by persistently high rates of suicidal ideation and attempts among American young adults. Given this, our understanding of how young adults seek support and navigate resources is crucial. Dr. LaForge’s study draws from a



web-based survey and interviews with young adults aged 18–25 to examine suicide-related help-seeking. Taken together, findings support the consideration of suicide-related help-seeking as a profoundly relational and processual practice. Engaging with the sociology of help-seeking, life course theory, and assemblage theory, the findings highlight help-seeking as a practice that unfolds broadly, subjectively, and contextually within the social lives of young adults. In her dissertation, Dr. LaForge draws attention to the material, affective, technological, and ideological entities and relations that form and shape these practices. In this work, she focuses heavily on flux and emergence, exploring how young adults evolve, their shifting relational and spatial ties, and a growing sense of self-responsibility, which, in turn, all re-tune their relations to care. Ultimately, findings suggest that to understand how young adults seek, receive, and reject help for suicidal ideation, we must broaden our scope – conceptualizing suicide-related help-seeking not as a crisis-oriented isolated event but rather as an ongoing process unfolding dynamically over time within the fabric of young adults’ daily lives. Dr. LaForge’s work has been disseminated at the American Association of Suicidology, the Oregon Public Health Association, the Suicide Research Symposium, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Problems and will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Victoria Lee, PhD Candidate in Public Policy, UNC-Charlotte successfully defended her dissertation proposal in April, 2025.

My dissertation research aims to examine the political landscape changes at the national, state, and local levels related to women’s reproductive health. In addition, I will examine the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision to return the question of abortion access to the states including how it reshaped political discourse. This mixed methods study will also provide an empirical examination of state ballot initiatives related to reproductive rights and the impact of state level ballot initiatives on voter behavior in the 2024 presidential elections

2025 ASA Conference Sessions

Summary of Events

- **Sat, August 9, 6:30 to 8:30pm** Joint Reception and section pin pick up
- **Sun, August 10, 2:00 to 3:30pm** Regular Session 30859 - Mental Health in Crisis: From COVID-19 to Combat
- **Mon, August 11, 8:00 to 9:30am** Section Session 40203 - Work and Mental Health
- **Mon, August 11, 2:00 to 3:00pm** Awards Ceremony and 2025 Pearlin Award Lecture
- **Mon, August 11, 3:00 to 3:30pm** SMH Business Meeting and section pin pick up
- **Mon, August 11, 4:00 to 5:30pm** Section Session 41009 - Singlehood and Mental Health
- **Tue, August 12, 8:00 to 9:30am** Regular Session 50214 - Mental Health and Stratification/Inequality

Joint Reception

Section on Medical Sociology; Section on Sociology of Body and Embodiment; Section on Sociology of Mental Health (Sponsored by the Sociology of Health and Illness Foundation)

Sat, August 9, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Offsite, Hawksmoor

Offsite Location: Hawksmoor, 500 North LaSalle Drive

Please join us! This location is .8 miles from the Hyatt Regency. Anyone who would like to arrange to share a ride or walk over together should meet up in the Hyatt lobby at 6pm, departing 6:15 at the latest.

Regular Session 30859 - Mental Health in Crisis: From COVID-19 to Combat

Presider: Amy L Johnson, Lehigh University

Organizer: Jason L. Cummings, Loyola University Chicago

Sun, August 10, 2:00 to 3:30pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Wrigley

- **Racialized Exposure to Multiple COVID-19 Deaths and their Consequences for Mental Health -** Matt Grace, Hamilton College; Dong Min (Danny) Lee, Hamilton College

- **Intersectional Disparities in Mental Health During COVID-19: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexual Identities (LGB+)** - Jing-Mao Ho, Utica University
- **Pity vs. Empathy: Emotional Responses to Mental Illness and Stigma** - Marta Elliott, University of Nevada-Reno; James Michael Ragsdale, University of Nevada-Reno
- **Opening the Discussion: First Responder Willingness to Discuss Mental Health after Occupational Wellness Training** - Anna La Manna, Washington University, St. Louis; Saad Siddiqui, Missouri Institute of Mental Health; Meghan M. O'Neil, Michigan State University; Garland Gerber, Northeastern University; Kyle Vance; Zach Budeska; Jeremiah Goulka; Leo Beletsky; Rachel Winograd
- **The Combat Stress Process: Evidence from the American Soldier Study in World War II** - Michael Hughes, Virginia Tech; Edward J. K. Gitre, Virginia Tech; K. Jill Kiecolt; J Micah Roos, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Andrew J. Smith, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Section Session 40203 - Work and Mental Health

President: Rose Xueqing Zhang, University of British Columbia

Organizers: Rachel Donnelly, Vanderbilt University; Scott Schieman, University of Toronto

Mon, August 11, 8:00 to 9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 1A

- **Dropping Out: A Gendered Life Course Assessment of Labor Force Nonparticipation and Mental Health** - Jessie Himmelstern, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; Phyllis Moen, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- **Queering 'Job Quality': LGBTQ+ Workplace Experiences and Well-being in Precarious Times** - Layne Amerikaner, University of Maryland-College Park
- **Taking on an Unpaid Second Shift: The Impact of Employment Type on Caregiver Well-being** - Fabio Robibaro, University of Toronto
- **The Work-Wellbeing Paradox: Exploring the Emotional and Bodily Dimensions of Intersectional Capitalism among Latinx Immigrants** - Bianca Ruiz-Negrón, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Alejandra Guadalupe Lemus, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Susana Echeverri Herrera, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Alejandro Tovar; Aurora Arreola, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center; Julia Meredith Hess, University of New Mexico; Jessica Rose Goodkind, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Awards Ceremony and 2025 Pearlin Award Lecture

Mon, August 11, 2:00 to 3:00pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

40906 - SMH Business Meeting

Mon, August 11, 3:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

Session 41009 - Singlehood and Mental Health

Presider: Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University

Discussant: Deborah Carr, Boston University

Organizers: Deborah Carr; Lijun Song

Mon, August 11, 4:00 to 5:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Randolph 1A

- **Health Disparities Among Young Single-Person Households in South Korea** - Bomi Kim, University of California-Santa Barbara
- **The sexual and dating lives of single heterosexual and LGBTQ+ young adults** - Hannah Tessler, University of Michigan
- **“The Shop is Not Closed”: Sex and Sexuality Among Older Adult Daters** - Lauren Harris, University of New Hampshire; Celia Melanson, University of New Hampshire
- **Cohort Differences in Older Adults’ Marital Status, Transitions, and Social and Mental Health** - Ruoqi Zheng, NORC at the University of Chicago; Ellen (Nell) Compennolle, NORC at the University of Chicago
- **Does Being Single and Living Alone Hurt? Mental and Cognitive Health Inequalities Among Older Adults** - Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University; Zhe Zhang, Vanderbilt University

Regular Session 50214 - Mental Health and Stratification/Inequality

Presider: Verna M. Keith, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Organizers: Jason L. Cummings, Loyola University Chicago

Tue, August 12, 8:00-9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Bronze Level/C Floor, Roosevelt 1

- **Counterbalancing Mechanisms Underlying the Black-White Mental Health Paradox** - Nicholas Smith, University of Maryland-College Park; Onyekachukwu Chimmuanya Arah, University of Maryland-College Park
- **The Role of Experiential Mastery in the Black-White Mental Health Paradox** - Patricia Louie, University of Washington; Terrence D. Hill
- **The Mental Health Consequences of Variation in the Receipt of Respect, Honor, and Esteem** - Bruce G Link, University of California-Riverside; Matthew Andersson, Baylor University
- **Gendered Resource Pathways to Externalizing and Internalizing Symptoms** - Christina Falci, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- **Falling Further Behind: The Growing Consequences of Poor Mental Health** - Jason Schnittker, University of Pennsylvania

News from Section Members

New Publications

From **Tania M. Jenkins**, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Jenkins, Tania M. and Alyssa R. Browne. 2025. "The Limits of Feminization: Gender Composition and Mental Wellbeing in the Medical Profession." *Social Forces*. doi: [10.1093/sf/soaf039](https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soaf039).

Tania is also author of a very important book, ***Doctors' Orders***, published by Columbia University Press in 2020.

From **Amy Johnson**, Lehigh University

Johnson, Amy L. 2025. "Mental Illness and the Resilience of Deviance." *Sociological Perspectives* 07311214251325512. doi: [10.1177/07311214251325512](https://doi.org/10.1177/07311214251325512).

Amy Johnson's 2024 paper, "[Deportation Threat Predicts Latino US Citizens and Noncitizens' Psychological Distress, 2011 to 2018](#)", won an IPUMS Research Award, co-authored with Christopher Levesque, Neil A. Lewis Jr., and Asad L. Asad.

<https://www.ipums.org/impact/ipums-research-award#healthsurveys>

From **Julio Montanez**, University of Central Florida

Montanez, Julio. 2024. "Discursive constructions of mental illness in statutes across the 50 United States". *Stigma and Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000595>

From **Kiwoong Park**, University of New Mexico

Park, Kiwoong, and Jinho Kim. 2025. "The Timing of Police Encounters in Adolescence and Adult Cognitive Function: Heterogeneity by Race/Ethnicity." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. doi:[10.1007/s40615-025-02470-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-025-02470-1).

Handbook Announcement

FINALLY! THE 4TH EDITION OF THE HANDBOOK, NOW RETITLED AS THE SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH: THEORIES, CONTEXTS AND SYSTEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER. The Paperback is relatively cheap at \$ 80.00. <https://www.cambridge.org/highereducation/books/sociology-of-mental-health>

Description: Sociology of Mental Health, 4th Edition offers a comprehensive introduction to the impact of social forces on mental health. Fully updated throughout, it features eleven new chapters on such topics as immigration, the work-family interface, and LGBTQ+ mental health. Part I addresses the central theoretical developments in the sociology of mental health. Part II examines the social context of mental health, including the social structures, statuses, and positions that affect mental health. Part III moves to the system level, focusing on the structural forces that shape mental health care. Each chapter is written by leading scholars who have defined our understanding of the relationship between mental health and society. This book is designed for mental health students, educators, researchers, and providers, serving as an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand mental health and mental health delivery systems.

Report from the Editor of *Society and Mental Health*

Fred E. Markowitz, Northern Illinois University

I am honored to assume the editor responsibilities for our journal. There has been a lot to learn! I want to thank the previous editors, Scott Schieman and Alex Bierman for sharing their wisdom and helping make a smooth transition. I am also grateful to our editorial assistant, Gale Cassidy and deputy editors, Kei Nomaguchi, Robyn Brown, Jong Hyun Jung, and the editorial board. It is truly a group effort.

The journal receives over 250 new manuscripts each year, covering a wide range of topics worldwide. My intent is to continue to build on the tradition of publishing the highest quality, sociologically informed research on mental health and illness. In order to do so, we rely on the expertise of external reviewers. Timely, thoughtful reviews are essential to the process, and we appreciate reviewers' participation, especially when we all have many demands on our time.

We are confronted with a number of mental health related social challenges, including youth depression, anxiety from political and economic instability, untreated mental illness, and homelessness. I hope to see submissions that examine these types of issues, highlighting the value of sociological research for understanding important social problems.

Report from the Student Representative

Emily Ekl, Indiana University - Bloomington

The Sociology of Mental Health Section has a long history of mentorship, and, after a short hiatus, we have re-booted our mentoring program! In this program, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and early career faculty have the opportunity to be paired with more advanced faculty mentors who can offer guidance on research, teaching, and professionalization topics. Mentors have historically provided guidance on seeking out funding opportunities, networking and navigating the hidden curriculum of graduate school, and working in consulting or activism roles. This year, 20 section members sought mentorship through this program and 18 members volunteered to serve as mentors. Stay tuned in future newsletters for highlights of mentorship pairs and opportunities to become involved in this program in the future.

Call For Papers

Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association! The conference dates are October 15-18, 2025, to be held in North Augusta, SC. We'll be hosting the meeting in-person, with a virtual option for a limited number of sessions. Deadline for submission: September 1, 2025.

2025 Theme: Disasters: Understanding the Textures of Loss, Love, and Recovery Amidst Forced Social Change

Globally, in a world of interlocking networks, the likelihood that most residents will experience a major disaster in their lifetimes is increasing significantly. Whether caused by natural, technological, synergistic, social, cyber, or new means, disasters are becoming more complex, frequent, stronger, longer-lasting, and more devastating in their impacts. As each disaster receives only limited national attention, the extended, slow recovery process forces change and transition at all levels of society, reshaping the pathways forward. Disasters force endings and offer new beginnings. Their destruction spotlights human losses, community ties, deep social change, power dynamics, gender inequalities, wealth and poverty disparities, as well as themes of security, insecurity, and civil rights across varied geographies and cyberspaces. For this conference, we encourage you to submit papers around the theme of disaster with a focus on the humanistic impacts, to understand the texture of loss, the emergence of care and love amidst such devastation, and the process of recovery in a myriad of social and cultural contexts. We are also interested in ways disaster concepts and theorization can apply to new social contexts, expanding our understanding of the theories and bridge the gap between disciplines and perspectives. Not a disaster scholar? That's great, too—your valuable sociological work in any area of expertise is absolutely welcome. Whether you submit a panel, paper, roundtable, or workshop, ALL TOPICS ARE WELCOME!

Presidential Sessions include:

- Internal Disaster Displacement
- Lived Experiences of Displaced Scholars
- Indigenous Frameworks of Disaster Knowledge
- Universities Facing Disaster

The submission portal is now open! We look forward to your submissions! The deadline is September 1, 2025. <https://mssa.meetingsavvy.net/login>. Do indicate whether you plan to present in-person or virtually, and your presenting authors. For help with submissions, please refer to the step-by-step submission guide.

Have inquiries about the conference? Do send your questions to Jess Pardee, president-elect, at mssaprogramchair@midsouthsoc.org or check out our website at <https://www.midsouthsoc.org>.

2025 Section Election Candidates

We're looking forward to voting for several section positions this year. The ASA Section and Community elections are now open through 5 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Thank you to all of the nominees who are graciously willing to give their time to the section:

Chair-Elect:

Ning Hsieh, Michigan State University

Courtney S. Thomas Tobin, UCLA

Chair of the Publications Committee:

Kyler Sherman-Wilkens, Missouri State University

Membership Chair:

Max Coleman, University of Utah

Christina Kamis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Standing Council Member:

Marta Elliott, University of Nevada, Reno

Jong Hyun Jung, Sungkyunkwan University

Final Thoughts from the Newsletter Editor

As Sociologists we share a critical lens, and we also know the power of social supports and solidarity. Thank you to Lijun for fostering an inclusive and caring place, and for your efforts to further mentorship of our students and colleagues. Our section has always been a safe house, and we can help build safe houses for our junior colleagues and students who are facing tremendous uncertainty. I have been a member of the ASA Section on Mental Health since its founding, and I have served a Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Awards, and most recent Publications Chair, with responsibility for the newsletter. Sorry this one is late 😊 Enjoy Chicago, I will miss you all.

Best,
Teresa.

Messages from other Organizations

Dear section members,

Here are two messages for our section: one from the American Public Health Association News, reprinted with permission from Dr. Ron Manderscheid, and one from the American Psychological Association Advocacy Network.

Before you read the message, please know that, per ASA regulations, “Only the ASA Council can make public statements on behalf of the Association. Sections are not permitted to take public positions independent of the Association.” Therefore, the Sociology of Mental Health Section does not take position on the following issues that you are about to read.

As you can see in the message, it contains action steps in case you wish to advocate on an individual level. Please note again that this is entirely your personal decision and it by no means represents the position of the Sociology of Mental Health Section on these issues. Please reach out to the organizers directly if you have any questions on these issues.

Mental Health and Public Policy

Ron Manderscheid, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
& University of Southern California

Sent through the American Public Health Association News, reprinted with permission from Dr. Manderscheid. The Administration's Office of Management and Budget has proposed reducing the funding of SAMHSA programs from the \$10.8 billion level in FY24 to \$5.6 billion in FY26, a decrease of \$5.2 billion. To achieve this reduction, SAMHSA Programs proposed for elimination in the FY26 budget proposal are:

Mental Health Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Project LAUNCH
- Healthy Transitions
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Children and Family Programs
- Interagency Task Force on Trauma Informed Care
- MH System Transformation and Health Reform
- Crisis Response Grants
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Programs

- Primary and Behavioral Health Integration
- Tribal Behavioral Health Grants
- Minority Fellowship Program
- Homeless Prevention Programs
- Consumer and Family Network Grants
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Assertive Community Treatment for Individuals with SMI
- Seclusion and Restraint

Substance Abuse Prevention Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Minority Fellowship Program
- Tribal Behavioral Health
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Strategic Prevention Framework
- STOP Act

Substance Use Treatment Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Pregnant and Post-partum Women
- Improving Access to Overdose Treatment
- Criminal Justice Activities
- Overdose Prevention (naloxone)
- First Responder Training (naloxone)
- Peer Support Assistance Center
- Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids
- Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment
- Minority Fellowship Program
- Children and Families
- Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support
- Building Communities of Recovery
- Recovery Community Services Program
- Treatment Systems for Homelessness
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Targeted Capacity Expansion
- Youth Prevention and Recovery Initiative

Other Eliminations:

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs)

From The American Psychology Association Advocacy Network

The president's budget request is the start of the FY 2026 appropriation process. It serves as a roadmap of White House spending priorities and political goals, to which Congress can react by determining how these critical programs and agencies are funded. **The FY 2026 budget proposal includes, but is not limited to:**

- A nearly \$18 billion (nearly 40%) cut to the **National Institutes of Health** and an almost \$5 billion cut to the National Science Foundation.
- A \$1 billion cut to the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** and a nearly \$2 billion cut to the **Health Resources and Services Administration**, including the likely elimination of the Graduate Psychology Education and Minority Fellowship Programs.
- A \$3.5 billion cut to the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** and a \$675 million cut to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, including the elimination of programs fighting HIV and climate change.
- A \$12 billion cut to the **Department of Education**, including the elimination of programs that help low-income college students finance their education, the elimination of key teacher preparation programs, and the reduction of school-based mental health grants.

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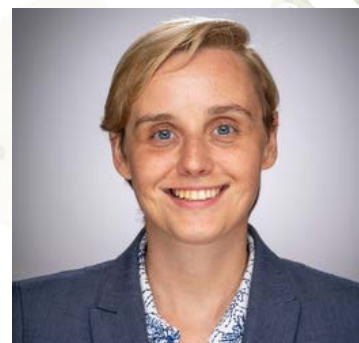
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