



**Robert  
Futrell,**  
Chair

## From the Chair:

I'm very pleased for you to read our newest UNLV Sociology newsletter. We shelved it for a bit during the pandemic, while we focused on other more pressing items. But, as we ease back into a slightly more predictably moment, we've pulled together some information for you about the great goings on with UNLV Sociology.

I'm deeply impressed at the many ways our entire department—faculty, staff, part-time instructors, graduate students, and undergraduates—pulled together through two pandemic years to continue our high-level scholarship, teaching, and service to our profession and community. None of it was easy, but our camaraderie and sense of purpose energized us when we needed it to meet our myriad challenges. We stayed focused on our award-winning research and teaching, our emphasis on public sociology and civic engagement, and on providing students with experiences necessary for personal intellectual growth, active citizenship, and professional success. And, we did it with a much-needed grace and compassion during very trying times.

We are now very much looking forward to a new phase in our department life. That new phase begins with new people. We're fortunate to have hired three amazing professors who begin this year: **Lillian Jungleib** (PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara), **Fatima Suarez** (PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara), and **Chenghui Zhang** (PhD, University of Kentucky). You'll read more about them in their profiles, so for now I'll just say that they come to us with incredible intellect, insights, and energy that will challenge and inspire our students and our profession. We're also excited to welcome our new

Office Manager, **Caitlin Moscato**. She's joining us after stints in other positions learning various essential features for our position. Caitlin is very smart, excited to learn about us and our needs, and brings lots of initiative. She's already established an excellent relationship with the Dean's Office staff and has great contacts in other key places around the university. We're also welcoming **Lauren Markey** in to our Administrative Assistant position. Lauren brings her high intellect, skills, and enthusiasm to our position. This was an easy decision to make. Lauren is truly a great fit for us.

While we're looking forward to working with our new faculty and staff colleagues, we must also recognize some people who are moving on into blissful retirements. Our good friend and long-time colleague, **Dr. Simon Gottschalk** decided to retire this summer after an amazing 30-year career. We'll all deeply miss his insightful scholarship and commentary on hypermodern society, computer-mediated culture, and, sensory sociology. He'll still be writing and helping his graduate students over the next year from his new home in Santa Barbara, California. We'll take up emeritus status for him this fall to keep him connected to us as long as he likes. We sincerely congratulate Simon for all his wisdom, hard work, and contributions to UNLV Sociology over the years. He's a true mensch.

We'll also miss our fantastic office staff team, **Pam Weiss** and **Connie Dye**, who are making their own move into blissful retirement. We've relied on our dynamic duo for so many years through so many changes. They've been the most stable, reliable, and efficient part of our collective effort and have both been deeply

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committed to our success. Personally, as department chair, their support has meant so much to me. We've been a great a team.

Though we're sad to say goodbye to our three colleagues, this is also a very happy moment and that's what I want to emphasize. I hope we're all lucky enough to retire on our own terms with lots of years for family and friends in front of us. This is what, Simon, Pam and Connie have in store. They will be able to spend more time with their families, travel around, pick up old hobbies, start new ones, and generally relax a bit without bearing the weight of work. Mondays will mean something different soon and maybe Fridays too!

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about some truly outstanding and wide-ranging faculty, staff, and student accomplishments. You'll also see in the myriad photos, the great people who make UNLV Sociology such a vibrant department. Our efforts continue to demonstrate our resolute commitment to top-notch teaching, important and innovative sociological research, and service to our communities. I'm very honored and grateful to work with such a smart and conscientious group that inspires me daily. I remain deeply impressed, each day, with the intellectual seriousness, practical importance, and good will demonstrated in all we do.

Sincerely,  
Robert Futrell

## New Faculty Profiles

### Lillian Jungleib

Lillian Jungleib is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. She completed her Ph.D. in Sociology with an emphasis in feminist studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2019. She then held a position as a University of California Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Irvine in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society (2019-2021) and as an Assistant Professor at Susquehanna University (2021-2022). She grounds her research and teaching in her commitment to public sociology and social justice principles at the intersection of criminology, gender, and social inequalities. Her book project *Rescue Rehab* (in progress) explores the nature and impact of two parallel prostitution diversion programs for managing prostitution: one which seeks to rescue women (mostly) who sell sex; the other which aims to educate men who buy it. Through comparative analysis of these programs she reveals the extent to which empowerment and responsabilization operate as fundamentally gendered state processes, and the paradoxical connections between victim-based prostitution policy and the criminalization of prostitution. Additionally, she conducts a research project centering the experiences of people who volunteer to "help" "victims" of sex trafficking/women in prostitution.



### Fatima Suarez

Fatima Suarez is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Dr. Suarez earned her doctorate degree in sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She specializes in the areas of gender, intersectionality, families, and Latina/o/x sociology. Her current book project centers on Latino fathers and the social forces that shape, sustain, and undermine their involved fathering. Dr. Suarez's research has been supported by a Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University and an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Latino Studies at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has also received recognition from the American Sociological Association and the Ford Foundation. Her public sociology contributions appear in The Clayman Institute's monthly newsletter, *Gender News*, and she was quoted in a New York Times article about family policies. Dr. Suarez teaches courses on Latina/o/x communities in the United States.



### Chenghui Zhang

Dr. Chenghui Zhang specializes in criminology, bias crime, racial/ethnic inequalities, and quantitative methods. Her research explores how social structure influences crime and crime reporting behaviors, with a specific focus on how social inequalities affect perceptions of and reactions to bias crimes. Methodologically, Dr. Zhang employs survey experiments to obtain first-hand data as an alternative to official statistics and applies advanced statistical methods and machine learning techniques to reveal how social inequalities manifest in crime experiences and crime reporting behaviors. Her work has been published in various journals and outlets, such as the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Race and Social Problems*, and *Refugees and Migrants in Law and Policy*. Dr. Zhang has also been recognized with awards from the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), and grant funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).



Dr. Chenghui Zhang joined the Department of Sociology at UNLV in 2022 after obtaining her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Kentucky. She holds a LL.M. in Jurisprudence from Tongji University and an active legal profession qualification in China (China BAR).

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## Faculty Accomplishments

### Dr. Tirth Bhatta

My sole-authored article in the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences (JGSS)* made a unique contribution to the existing scholarship that has paid little attention to cohort-specific variation in early-life selection mechanisms and their contribution to widening education-based inequalities in later life health.

My recent study in the *Innovation in Aging* journal examined the invariance of our altruism scale over time and across gender and assessed the relationship between altruistic orientation and well-being outcomes such as the meaning of life. In another recent study, which was published in the *JGSS* and selected Editor's Choice, we added another novel dimension to the body of knowledge about later-life psychological well-being by demonstrating that compassionate love has a beneficial effect on mental health independent of the influence of other positive emotions such as altruism and emotional support. Using our national web-based survey, my study, published in the *Journal of Women and Aging*, examined whether emotional support and loneliness differed across the levels of financial strain during the pandemic. I collaborated on an opinion piece in the *Salon* to demonstrate how the pandemic affects various social groups (particularly the poor, marginalized caste groups) in India.

### Dr. Michael Ian Borer

Michael Ian Borer received high praise in the discipline's top journals for his book *Vegas Brews: Craft Beer and the Birth of a Local Scene* (NYU Press, 2019). With PhD candidate Josiah Kidwell, he published the "The Sanctuary of the Spectacle: Megachurches and the Production of Christian Celebrities

and Consumers" in the *Journal of Religion & Media* and was the solo author of "Culture, of the Meaning of Meaning-Making" for *The Oxford Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. During 2021-2022, Borer was elected and served as the President for the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He was promoted to Full Professor in 2021.

### Dr. Barb Brents

Barb Brents recently published a book, *Paying for Sex in the Digital Age* (Routledge 2020), with graduate student Chris Wakefield and Teela Sanders, and six co-authored articles and book chapters in 2020-2021. She was inducted as a visiting Yip Fellow to Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge. The Yip fellowship paid for residence at Cambridge for the Easter term, 2022, however her position as a fellow is for life. She also is a leader of the Nevada chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network.

### Dr. David Dickens

David R. Dickens is co-editor, with K. Tillman and C.C. Herbison, of the forthcoming book, "Neglected Theorists of Color" and co-author, with Chris Conner of the forthcoming book, "Electronic Dance Music: From Deviant Subculture to Culture Industry." Also, he recently developed and taught a new graduate seminar on Racial Capitalism. Dr. Dickens has also been appointed Series Editor for a new book series from Lexington Books on The Frankfurt School in New Times.

### Dr. Robert Futrell

During the last two years, I've been almost fully focused on my stewardship and support roles as department chair through our

pandemic challenges. But, I did manage to work in a few scholarly activities. I published three chapters on extremist politics and a book review for *AJS*. I also gave many interviews on political extremism to varied outlets including, the *Washington Post*, *Bloomberg News*, *Chronicle of Higher Ed*, *NPR*, and *NBC News*.

### Dr. Simon Gottschalk

Since the publication of the last newsletter, Simon Gottschalk has published numerous book chapters and articles that explore 3 topics: the effects of online interactions in everyday life, white supremacist websites, and infantilization trends in contemporary society. His most recent publications include:

- "Terminal Violence: Online Interaction and Infra-humanization." In *People, Technology, and Social Organizations: Interactionist Studies of Everyday Life*. Edited by Natalia Ruiz-Junco, William Gibson and Dirk Vom Lehn. Routledge. 2022.
- "Click, Validate, and Reply: Three Paradoxes of the Terminal Self." *Routledge International Handbook of Interactionism*. Edited by Natalia Ruiz-Junco, W. Gibson, and D. Vom Lehn. Routledge. 2021
- "Dehumanization and De-Realization: A Theory of Symbolic Interaction with Digital Technologies" (with Celene Fuller). *Oxford Handbook of Symbolic Interaction*. Edited by Wayne Brekhus, T. Degloma, and William Force. Oxford University Press. 2021
- "Click to Disable: Infantilization in Terminal Interaction at Work."



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In *Like a Child Would Do: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Childlikeness in Past and Contemporary Societies*. Edited by Oliver Mathieu Alemany and Russel W. Belk. Canada: Universitas Press. 2021

“Viral Vengeance, Derealization, and Deadly Violence: White Supremacist Websites and Mass Shootings” (with Daniel Okamura, Jaimee Nix, and Celene Fuller). Forthcoming in *All American Massacre: The Tragic Role of American Culture and Society in Mass Shootings*. Edited by Eric Madfis and Adam Lankford. Temple University Press. 2022.

Gottschalk’s articles have also been reprinted in *Salon*, *Yahoo News*, and other national and international media outlets. He has also been interviewed by, the *Las Vegas Sun*, *the Las Vegas Review Journal*, local TV stations, and other media.

### **Dr. Liz Lawrence**

I have published several articles in sociology, demography and health journals on health lifestyles, early life mortality, and geographic and educational disparities in health. One of the most fun papers to work on was a co-authored article on the contributions and challenges in health lifestyles research, published in the special issue of *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, “Medical Sociology: Findings, Challenges, and Future Directions”. With Stefanie Mollborn, I also co-organized a virtual conference Advancing Health Lifestyles Research, which was attended by around 50 scholars from around the world and in various disciplines. I have also submitted a few grants, which have been rejected by top institutions. However, I received funding for one pilot grant: Dr. Tirth Bhatta, Dr. Samantha John (UNLV Brain Health), and I are

working on a project examining how Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias are patterned across the rural-urban continuum in older U.S. adults. Our results led us to key social and behavioral factors prior to older adulthood, and we have submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health to study health lifestyles across the rural-urban continuum. My updated CV lists the successful outcomes of my endeavors and is available on my faculty webpage.

### **Public Sociology:**

- I worked with researchers at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Colorado- Boulder, and Population Reference Bureau to write a report on early life mortality, Dying Young in the United States. This report is intended to provide information to policymakers and interested individuals on how and why youth die more frequently in the United States compared to other similarly wealthy countries. There is a brief video summarizing the report and I also wrote a blog post about our findings.

### **Dr. Robert Parker**

Dr. Parker recently published a new book –*The Misuse, Misrepresentation, and Politicization of Statistics in American Society*– with Lexington Books. Dr. Parker critiques early measurement efforts by several government agencies responsible for some of the most widely watched social indicators on unemployment, life expectancy, crime, and population. He explains that official statistics are dubious at best, better seen not so much as objective barometers of social life but rather as socially constructed metrics that are easily manipulated and often politicized.

### **Dr. Cassandra Rodriguez**

Dr. Cassandra Rodriguez was awarded a prestigious Early Career

Enhancement fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year from the Institute for Citizens & Scholars. In 2021, she was awarded a UNLV College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Award and a UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award Grant for her newest Las Vegas-based research. Dr. Rodriguez was also recognized for her teaching with a UNLV College of Liberal Arts William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching and served as featured expert/resource for the Faculty Center’s Educational Equity Program. She also published (with colleagues) an article titled “Controlling Images of Immigrants in the Mainstream and Black Press: The Discursive Power of the ‘Illegal Latino’” in the journal *Latino Studies* and was invited to serve on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

### **Dr. Dmitri Shalin**

In the last two years, Dmitri Shalin has been working on a special issue of the *Journal of Life Writing* featuring a selection from the diaries and notebooks of Russian and American artists, politicians, and public intellectuals. The introductory essay for this issue, Notes on Contemporary Autobiographical Prose, reviews the emerging trends in contemporary autobiographical discourse. He also published a paper in *The American Sociologist* on the Promise of Embodied Sociology, a study titled Goffman’s Biography and Interaction Order, and an article on Chekhov and the Ethics of Small Deeds. Shalin’s efforts in the area of public sociology are represented by an essay Identity Politics and Civic Imagination that appeared in *Tikkun Magazine*, and a coauthored column in *The Nevada Independent*, Nevada Criminal Justice Reform Falls far Short.



## Faculty Profile

Dr. Barb Brents – Yip Visiting Fellow – Magdalene College, Cambridge University

### What is the fellowship and where are you located?

I was awarded a visiting Yip Fellowship to Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England. The fellowship is awarded to an American academic and supports residence at the college for a semester. In addition, I was inducted as a fellow of Magdalene College, and am a member of the college for life. As a visiting fellow I had a 2-month residence in the Pepys Building at Magdalene College, a 17th century building housing the rare book collection of Samuel Pepys, who not only collected (and bound for his personal library) books published in the late 1600s (including, for example, Isaac Newton's second printing of Principia Mathematica, just one story below my feet as I write), he also was an obsessive diarist who chronicled life as a middle class aristocrat.

### It was delayed by the pandemic. When had you planned to go and how did you deal with the delay?

I was supposed to go in Spring term of 2021. The British University system has terms using Church of England labels, and so I was to go Easter term, from mid-April to mid-June, but life had other plans. In going in Spring 2022 I still taught classes in the US. Finishing the terms, exams, PhD defenses, papers ended up occupying a lot of my time here. As well as various research projects. But thanks to zoom, it was like I never left. I was to spend more time working with Brendan Burchell in the Sociology Department at Cambridge who in 2021 was on a project studying the informal labor market which was close to my work. But in Spring of 2022 I had moved to my project on sexual violence and sex work and he was doing research on the four-day work week and wellness. In addition, unknown to me, Easter term was when students took yearly exams (yes once a year, not end of semester), and



so there were fewer opportunities to participate in teaching seminars here. And they had just come off of their pandemic lock downs. That said, I felt like I was here just when everyone else was starting to interact again. And there were plenty talks, seminars, performances, opportunities for interaction with a wide variety of scholars in loads of informal ways, which was better!

### Who have you met and what professional development/research opportunities has/will it provide you?

I don't think I will ever be able to communicate what my experiences here have taught me about our lives as academics. US academic life feeds our curiosity and thirst for learning in important ways, but it is also competitive in ways that prevents us from sharing our thoughts and ideas unless we are convinced they are fully formed. Here, curiosity wins. The Cambridge and Oxford systems rely on colleges that house scholars from a wide variety of disciplines who dine together and sometimes live

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on campus. These college “fellows” teach small seminars (2 or 3 students) in addition to sometimes participating in traditional disciplinary departments. But dining together has taken on ritual proportions as mechanisms to interact with and befriend folks from other disciplines.

Despite my initial worry, there is not been one conversation in these dining occasions that I have not thoroughly enjoyed at a deep, deep level. My first explanation to the outside world is that while I am a master at feeling inadequate, and this would be the place to do so, I have never felt even close to worrying about who I am. There is a calm joy in talking about big ideas, complicated ideas, medium ideas, stupid jokes, all over dinner and lots of wine, ideas all in equal measure, among people who have just simply chosen to devote their lives to learning, but who have work/life balance. Everyone has said that this is an unreal bubble of paradise. Everyone has said that they are surprised they are here. All I’ve asked say that they feel a bit of imposter syndrome, but have very quickly learned that that it doesn’t matter. I just don’t know how to communicate this. I now know that in my beloved UNLV Sociology Department, we all have amazing things to learn from each other that will help us all grow. I want to find a way to hear more what

everyone is up to, now that I know what it that feels like. Plus, I have invited all 100 fellows at Magdalene College to now visit Las Vegas as well as all the newly instituted honorary fellows. For example, like Mike Newell, who directed Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, who was an undergrad here.

**Are you traveling elsewhere during your time there? If so, what’s your favorite place you’ve been so far?**

So...yes. My mother was born in Jamaica with nine siblings who all spread across Canada and the UK. And so I am seeing my cousins in Wales and London, then taking my recent high school graduate twins on a graduation present trip to Paris and Spain, and then on to a conference in Lisbon.

**What’s your favorite English food?**

There is no such thing as good English food. I do like lamb though. And strawberries in season are great.

**What advice can you offer for others interested in applying for experiences like this one?**

Most colleges at Cambridge and Oxford have fellowships for visiting faculty, so getting to know people in the colleges helps. They don’t know you unless you know them. So, it’s just about networking, and those random conference interactions and friends of friends, and now, I guess, social media.



# Sociology Snapshots

## Sociology Ice Cream Social 2022

As the weather warmed in April and we longed to reconnect, we hosted an Ice Cream Social event that brought together students, faculty, and staff for conversation and, of course, ice cream!





## AWARDS

(Below) Torisha Khonach, UNLV Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, 2022



(Left) Jeanette Hernández, Dr. James Frey Graduate Scholarship

(Below) Chris Wakefield, UNLV Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, 2021



## GRADUATES

Dr. Lanti dissertation defense



Dr. Marta Soligo

## ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Caitlin and Lauren (Our office staff)



Sociology Club Welcome Day 2022

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# Graduates and Awards

## Recent Ph.D. Graduates

- o Dr. Jennifer Stevens (Spring 2021)
- o Dr. Marta Soligo (Fall 2021)
- o Dr. Christina Parreira (Fall 2021)
- o Dr. Neema Langa (Spring 2022)
- o Dr. Alessandra Lanti (Spring 2022)
- o Dr. Jason Scott (Spring 2022),
- o Dr. Josiah Kidwell (Summer 2022)

## Graduate Awards & Accomplishments 2021

- o University/Grad College
  - **Vanessa Núñez** won the President's UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship - the top Graduate College research award with \$25,000 in support for students in their final dissertation year.
  - **Chris Wakefield**, was selected for the UNLV Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
  - **Chris Wakefield** earned the **James Frey Graduate Student Research Scholarship** generously sponsored by Dr. Jim Frey, former UNLV Sociology Professor, Department Chair, and College of Liberal Arts Dean.
  - Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship
    - o **Celene Fuller**
    - o **Jeannette Hernández**
    - o **Bridget Longoria**
    - o **Marta Soligo**
    - o **Korey Tillman**
- o Department Awards
  - **Bridget Longoria** and **Vanessa Núñez** were selected as the Outstanding PhD. Students
  - Bridget Longoria earned the UNLV Sociology Outstanding Paper Award
  - Nicole Santero, Vanessa Nuñez, Joshua Corum were each selected for the UNLV Sociology Public Sociology Award

## Undergraduate Awards

- **Lauren Tycksen - Sidney Green Award**
- **Ali Kai Ancheta - C. Wright Mills award.**

## Graduate Awards & Accomplishments 2022

- o National Awards
  - **Vanessa Núñez** - Ford Foundation Dissertation Award selected by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation
- o University/Grad College/Liberal Arts
  - **Torisha Khonach** earned the UNLV Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
  - Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship
    - o **Torisha Khonach**
    - o **Vanessa Núñez**
    - o **Jeanette Hernández**
    - o **Christian Lewis**
  - **Camisha Fagan** was awarded the Sankofa Advocate Scholarship by the UNLV Office of Student Diversity & Social Justice
  - **Nicole Santero** received an honorable mention for UNLV's Community Engagement Award.
  - **Jeannette Hernández** earned the **James Frey Graduate Student Research Scholarship** generously sponsored by Dr. Jim Frey, former UNLV Sociology Professor, Department Chair, and College of Liberal Arts Dean.

## Undergraduate Awards

- **Zidonia Wong** - Sidney Green Award
- **Zidonia Wong** - C. Wright Mills Award
- **Aaron Bollwinkel** - Outstanding Senior
- **Matthew Anderson** - Outstanding Junior



# Spring Celebration 2022

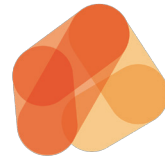
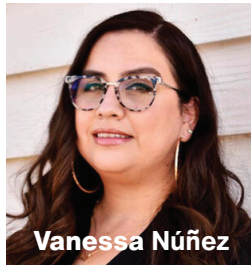
As the semester ended, we restarted our annual Spring Celebration to applaud our graduates, yearly student award winners, AKD inductees, Sociology Club, and faculty accomplishments. We also said goodbye to our long-time office managers, Pam Weiss and Connie Dye.





# Ford Fellowship

Vanessa Núñez was selected for a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for 2022-2023. She is the first Ford Dissertation Fellow in UNLV's history. This fellowship is among the most prestigious awards available to doctoral candidates. It's earned through a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation. Vanessa was one of 36 fellows awarded from more than 500 applicants in fields including social sciences, engineering, biological sciences, humanities, mathematics, and others. The Ford Foundation fellowships help to maximize the educational benefits of diversity at colleges and universities around the nation. Vanessa's dissertation research explores higher education access issues for undocumented students. She earned honorable mention in this competition her first time through and her persistence really paid off with the award this time. Vanessa was profiled in *UNLV News*.



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

NEVADA

Scholars Strategy Network connects journalists, policymakers, and civic leaders with top researchers to improve policy and strengthen democracy.



Recently the Nevada chapter hosted a happy hour where Dr. Barb Brents and PhD. student Dante Miller brought together members of the Las Vegas City Council, Nevada State Assembly, The Nevada Independent with UNLV faculty and graduate students. They will host workshops on Student Voting and the Nevada State Legislature.

# In Memory

We are very sad to announce that Dr. Andrew Spivak, Associate Professor of Sociology, passed away January 25, 2021 due to complications from a rare liver disease.



**Dr. Andrew Spivak**

Andrew was a valued colleague and friend to many across the college and university. An award-winning teacher and crime and delinquency scholar, he played vital roles in Sociology as a mentor to many students and a supportive colleague in Sociology, the College of Liberal Arts, and around the university.

Andrew came to UNLV in 2008. He brought on-the-ground experience in crime and corrections to his work as a researcher and teacher at UNLV. His students lauded his mentorship as sharply analytical and deeply informed by both his disciplinary knowledge in criminology and practical work experiences in the

field that really set him apart.

Andrew deeply valued his students and worked tirelessly for their success. His research, twice funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, addressed wide-ranging topics including prison inmate demographics and recidivism, neighborhood policing, juvenile prostitution, juvenile justice processing, violent behavior, tobacco regulation compliance, sexual commerce and residential segregation.

Dr. Spivak is survived by his partner Rela and his young son Ian.

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With great sadness, the Sociology Department grieves Prof. William (Bud) Brown's passing in April 2022. Bud was UNLV Sociology's first PhD graduate and a Professor in Criminal Justice at Western Oregon University.

Bud fiercely criticized social injustices. Most of his research was on veterans in the criminal justice system, and he epitomized the department's



commitment to public sociology. He founded the Bunker Project which assists veterans with alcohol, drug, post-traumatic stress disorder, and legal problems, and the Pacific Sentencing Initiative providing expert witness assistance to attorneys defending combat veterans.

Perhaps nothing sums up Bud's commitment to justice better than a small plaque he took to Vietnam in 1990 containing the war medals he won while fighting there during the Vietnam War. "To the People of a United Vietnam, I was wrong, I am sorry." The plaque now hangs in the Vietnam War Remnants Museum in Saigon. You can read about Bud's experiences in "Reconciliation in a Back-Alley Cafe of Saigon."

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# Give to UNLV Sociology

The UNLV Department of Sociology combines innovative research with teaching and community service to address questions of social change, diversity, social justice, and sustainability in urban environments. Our research, teaching, and PhD training emphasize public sociology and civic engagement. Our faculty investigate individual and group experiences social problems such as intersectional stratification, health disparities, sexuality, crime and deviance, sexual economies, education, work, social protest, gambling and addictions, and environmental sustainability. Our award-winning teaching integrates students' learning experiences with scholarly investigation and civic engagement.

Your support for UNLV Sociology helps us succeed as a dynamic department vital to UNLV's R1 mission to produce innovative, useable knowledge, and enrich the cultural vitality of the communities we serve.

[engage.unlv.edu/sociology](https://engage.unlv.edu/sociology)

