
JOHN JAY

Department of Sociology

Newsletter

SPRING 21 ISSUE
By Alisa Thomas

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRS

Jayne Mooney & Robert Garot

As we mark one year of living under Covid-19, we take heart in having risen to the challenge. We have become trained in distance learning, expressed more flexibility and humanity with our students, and come to reflect on how we as sociologists and criminologists may better serve our campus and broader communities. As we all work hard to rethink and revise our curricula inspired by the voices of scholars from socially marginalized communities speaking to our national legacy of entrenched structural racism and white supremacy, some of us are making especially pronounced contributions.

Under the direction of Carla Barrett and the Curriculum Committee, we are working to make long-term changes to John Jay's General Education offerings through four courses. First, Carla is in the final stages of

making SOC 213, Race and Ethnic Relations, a Gen Ed course. Second, Aaron Hammes will soon be presenting his timely course, *Abolition from Slavery to Supermax*, before the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee (UCASC) as a 200-level Gen Ed course. Patricia Johnson-Cox and Andrew Karmen are bringing two courses to UCASC, one on social movements and another on the Sociology of Health. Together, these efforts embed sociological insights more profoundly into our general undergraduate curriculum, providing students a means to explain what they mean by structural racism.

We are further grateful to our adjuncts Amy Martinez and Sean Wilson for organizing and contributing to the powerful panel, 'Anti-Racist Praxis in the Academy: A Conversation'. In case you missed it, it is on youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-8dZKhz3jA>. We must commit to developing further inroads in these vitally important matters, because what we offer in sociology is needed now more than ever. We look forward to continuing these important conversations and to the time when we will all be back on campus.

Bob and Jayne

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Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society

John Jay has a chapter of the
International Sociology Honor Society
www.alphakappadelta.org

ATHROPON **K**ATAMANNTHANEIN **D**IAKONESIN

“to investigate humanity for the purpose of service”



The Department of Sociology would like to give recognition to 38 students in our majors who have successfully applied to the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 AKD INDUCTEES !

Amanda Abdelwahab

Nicholas A. Ali

Alexander Anthony Arroyo

Camilla Broderick

Jeritza Giraldo Cadavid

Lillian M Carneiro

Sophia Chiaramonte

Lucy Coj-Tahay

Jamillia Davis

Oumou Diallo

Aldin Feratovic

Sayleen Giselle Flores

Darryl Fulton

Annalisa Gangone

Gissela Gonzalez

Kelly Gutierrez

Erin Marie Hamilton

Wiktorija Hatala

Jenifer Elizabeth Herrera

Brigitte Jaramillo

Serin Karma

Jerrald Kelty II

Emine Kilic

Julia A Kishun

Jessie Ling

Indira Sequora Mclean

Daniella T. Noel

Jonathan Olivera

Chloe Rose Pelli

Stephanie Jahayra
Ramirez

Michelle Ramlall

Jaclyn N. Rinaldi

Camila Santibanez Perez

Sandi Santiago

Nicholas Spellacy

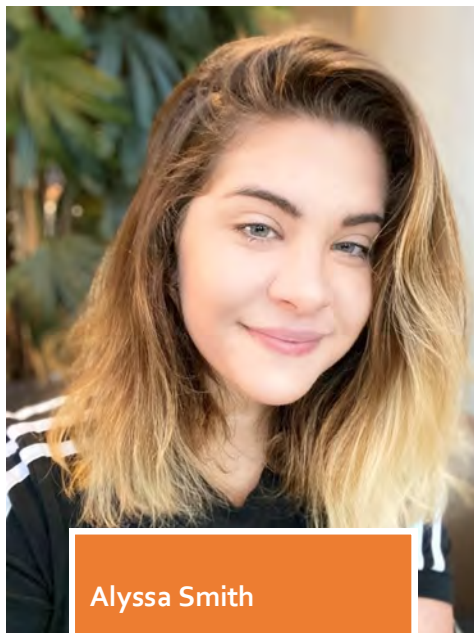
Destiny Marie Taveras

Elizabeth Torres

Madeline E. Willis



Students Living Through the Pandemic



Alyssa Smith

Criminology BA

When the pandemic first started, I was a little nervous about traveling to school in fear of catching/giving the virus to someone. I'm located on Long Island, so it was a bit nerve-wracking to think about traveling during this time. When everything switched from in-person to online, it relieved some of my stress and anxiety about commuting into the city. I try to balance school by taking each day at a time and not trying to overwhelm myself. I try to do at least one or sometimes two classes each day, depending on how much work I receive. I also try to get outside for a little while if the weather permits. I feel like the outdoors can help someone's mood, and it just helps to get a change of scenery from being inside all day.

My current occupation is being a Direct Support Professional (DSP). For those who don't know what a DSP is, it's helping those who have different disabilities become more independent in their communities. I enjoy my job because I feel like I am making a difference in someone's life.



Rovitt Barranco Morales

Sociology MIN

Hello everyone! My name is Rovitt Barranco Morales. I am a senior here at John Jay College. Balancing college and work during the pandemic has been challenging. There have been many sleepless nights. However, it made me realize that I am truly capable of anything if I put my mind to it. It also made me realize to cherish my loved ones, because life is filled with unpredictable moments. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for my amazing family, friends, boyfriend, and boss who always push me to do my best. As I am now coming to a finish in my final semester, I am excited and scared for what the future brings, but I will make the best of it!

Faculty Publications

Janice Johnson– Dias



Congratulations to John Jay’s own Professor Janice Johnson Dias on her recent book launch! The book has received great reviews from Publishers Weekly and the Library Journal.



Janice Johnson-Dias on the TODAY Show with Hoda & Jenna

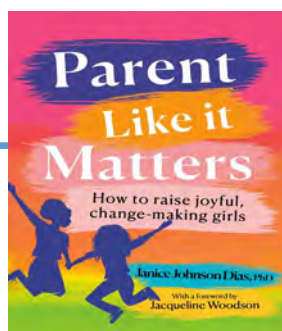
As **Jacqueline Woodson** shares in the Foreword, “By the end of this book, we are able to see ourselves as parents through a new lens. And finally, we can truly see our children in all of their wonder and possibility. I’ve learned that it’s never too late to begin to parent like it matters– with love, with intention, with gratitude.” In **PARENT LIKE IT MATTERS: How to Raise Joyful, Change-Making Girls** (Ballantine Books; On Sale: March 2, 2021), Dr. Johnson Dias shows us how, beginning with the idea that we must teach girls to lift as they climb—and to pull others along with them.

Dr. Johnson Dias knows that self-realized girls are created through intentional parenting. And so, she asks parents to make deliberate choices from babyhood through adolescence that will give their girls the resources and foundation to take hold of their own futures and to create sustainable social change. Unlike other parenting experts, Dr. Johnson Dias does not urge parents to focus solely on their children. Instead, she tasks them with a personal challenge: to find their own joy. Just as she brings her own jubilant passion to parenting, mentoring, and teaching, she inspires caregivers to do the same.

The book offers information and strategies for making discussions of racism and sexism a daily practice, identifying heroes and mentors, educating yourselves together, and uncovering your girl’s passions and what issues drive her the most. Parenting is enormous work; it can be as overwhelming as it is fulfilling. Within the pages of **PARENT LIKE IT MATTERS**—a game changer in the parenting category—parents will find the invaluable tools they need to raise resilient, optimistic girls who dream big and determine for themselves what their world will look like.

Informed by personal experience, mixed with expert insights and anecdotes from Dr. Johnson Dias’ decades-long work with girls, the book is a manifesto on how we can raise not just happy and healthy girls, but also a generation of young women capable of transforming our world.

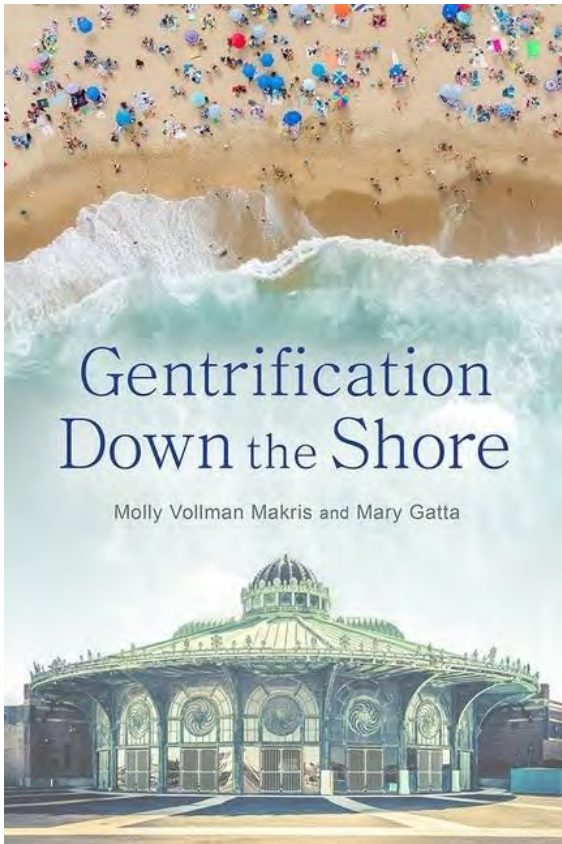
<https://www.today.com/video/tips-for-raising-resilient-and-optimistic-girls-101889605591>



Faculty Publications

Congratulations to our new Adjunct Mary Gatta on publishing her exciting book of ethnographic research!

Mary Gatta



Dr. Molly Vollman Makris and Dr. Mary Gatta have co-authored *Gentrification Down the Shore*, an insightful ethnographic case study recently released by Rutgers University Press. The book explores the evolution of Asbury Park, New Jersey, a beach town vibrant in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before bearing the downward impact of broader structural socioeconomic changes on US urban areas. Unexpectedly, Asbury Park was thrust into the national spotlight in 2017, when it was ranked America’s “coolest small town” by *Budget Travel Magazine*, drawing wealthy buyers and developers of ocean-front properties and tourists seeking the experiences and amenities of luxurious resorts. Combining in-depth interviews, focus groups, ethnographic observation, and data analysis, Drs. Makris and Gatta show the devastating effects of this seasonal gentrification on the residents of Asbury’s West Side, many of whom live on incomes at or below the poverty line and are blocked from socioeconomic advancement. “Focusing on historical [racial] segregation both residentially and in the labor market,” as well as exclusion based on class and LGBTQ identities, this “rich qualitative work and presentation of intersectionality... sheds light on the experiences of living in Asbury Park from the perspective of people who were there long ago,” writes urban change and policy scholar Kathie Newman.

See Mary Gatta’s Podcast with Shonna Trinch & Ed Snajdr

<https://indoorvoicespodcast.com/2021/02/15/episode-53-a-beach-community-ethnography/>

Faculty Publications

Amy Adamczyk



Christian Smith and Amy Adamczyk. 2021 (forthcoming in April). [*Handing Down the Faith: How Parents Pass Their Religion on to the Next Generation*](#). New York: Oxford University Press The most important influence shaping the religious and spiritual lives of children, youth, and teenagers is their parents. A myriad of studies show that the parents of American youth play the leading role in shaping the character of their religious and spiritual lives, even well after they leave home and often for the rest of their lives. We know a lot about the importance of parents in faith transmission. However, we know much less about the actual beliefs, feelings, and activities of the parents themselves, what Christian Smith and Amy Adamczyk call the "intergenerational transmission of religious faith and practice." To address that gap, this book reports the findings of a new national study of religious parents in the United States. The findings and conclusions in *Handing Down the Faith* are based on 215 in-depth, personal interviews with religious parents from many traditions and different parts of the country, and sophisticated analyses of two nationally representative surveys of American parents about their religious parenting.

David Brotherton

Professor Dave Brotherton has just signed a new book contract with Temple University Press entitled [*What's Love Got to Do With It: Credible Messengers and the Power of Transformative Mentoring*](#) to be published in 2022 and co-authored with colleagues Danny Kessler and Louis Kontos along with Bahiyyah Muhammad (Howard) and Rodrigo Martinez (Maryland). In March 2021 he will publish a technical paper for the World Bank called "Large-scale rehabilitation and reentry of former prisoners in El Salvador: entry points for public policy and operations," with co-authors Adrian Bergman and Rafael Gude. This policy document is the result of a multi-year collaboration with the World Bank based on violence reduction and social inclusion vis a vis Ecuadorian street gangs published in the *Journal of Critical Criminology* (see <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10612-020-09505-5>). Further Prof. Brotherton is P.I. on a \$375,000 NSF-funded mixed-methods study called the "New York City Deportation Pipeline Project," due to begin in April. The project involves former CUNY sociology graduate Professor Sarah Tosh (Rutgers) as co-PI and current graduate students Nick Rodrigo and Edwin Grimsley. Finally, Professor Brotherton has a new co-edited book out (with Rafael Gude) in June called the "Routledge Handbook of International Critical Gang Studies (<https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-International-Handbook-of-Critical-Gang-Studies/Brotherton-Gude/p/book/9781138616110>). This 860 page compilation of original works from a global cast of 60 authors (including 5 current or former CUNY graduates) is the foundational text of this new and rapidly growing field .



Antonio Alvarez-Benavides

Our colleague Antonio Álvarez-Benavides has edited with Ariel Sribman, Francisco Fernández-Trujillo and Andy Castillo, the book: "Acción colectiva, movilización y resistencias en el siglo XXI", is composed of three volumes: Vol.1: Teoría, Vol.2: Genealogías and Vol. 3: Estudios de caso. There are more than 30 chapters, 50 authors, dealing with different social actions, protests and social movements from different places of Spain, Chile, Mexico, Germany, Rumania... There are notable scholars participating on it, as Pedro Ibarra, Tomás R. Villasante, Susana Aguilar, Benjamín Tejerina, Daniella Bandeli. The book is published by the Spanish Sociology Federation and Betiko Foundation.

Some copies will be available in fall at JJAY Library, but a free online version is available on this link: <http://fundacionbetiko.org/trilogia-editada-colaboracion-federacion-espanola-sociologia-fes-betiko/>



Faculty Publications

Popy Begum



Abstract This study examines the lives of 96 brothel-based sex workers in New Delhi, India, who work in a “red light” zone that features seventy or more brothels squeezed into close proximity to each other and strung along a bustling urban street, popularly known as Garstin Bastion Road (G.B. Road). The study seeks to contribute to the existing literature on sex work in several ways. First, it highlights the importance that religion plays in the lives of sex workers in this context, especially Hindu and Muslim sex workers. It interrogates the role that religion plays in the lives of sex workers on G.B. Road in New Delhi, and in doing so, it documents, describes and analyzes the degree to which religious beliefs set the timing and tempo of sex workers’ participation in the market, how it influences, discourages or promotes the specific types of sex acts they engage in, and how it affects the kinds of social services they seek or shun. It also examines the role that religious-based rituals and routines enacted by sex workers play in helping to establish and maintain a brothel culture that champions resilience, respect and non-violence, even as the wider society outside the red-light district is wracked by religious violence .

Popy’s dissertation “Rituals, Routines and Religion: Understanding the Experiences of Brothel-Based Sex Workers in New Delhi, India” was awarded 5 external grants/awards: Graduate Research Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion~Feminist Criminology Graduate Research Scholarship Honorable Mention, American Society of Criminology~Constant H. Jacques Research Award, Religious Research Association~Joseph H. Fichter Research Grant, Association for the Sociology of Religion~ Student Research Award, Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology & Criminal Justice

Imtashal Tariq



Abstract “Women” who engage in “violent extremism” are often portrayed in ways that disassociate femininity from agency in violence, sensationalize the violence that women do commit, and manipulate traits associated with femininity to portray women’s violence as femininity gone wrong. The study of “women” and “violent extremism” suffers on a variety of levels. First, both the category of “women” and the label of “violent extremism” are definitionally fraught, political, and politicized. Second, there are gendered obstructions to recovering and representing histories of women’s engagement in violent extremism that make learning about the extent of the relevant behavior difficult at best. Third, both existing theories themselves and the existing contours of the enterprise of theorizing “women” and “violent extremisms” make the project of figuring out why “women” commit “violent extremist” acts both difficult and problematic. But why “women” engage in “violent extremism” is only an interesting question if you believe that women necessarily have something in common. Otherwise, why “women” engage in any given behavior is not any different than why people engage in that same behavior. We argue that, rather than focusing on a causal relationship between an essentialist understanding of gender and a politicized understanding of “violent extremism,” it is more productive to think about the role that gender plays in shaping “violent extremism,” conceptually and as it is practiced across a wide variety of groups and locations around the world. “Violent extremism” is indeed gendered, just not in the simple way where some generic motivation can be assigned to the participation of “women” therein.

Tariq, I., & Sjoberg, L. (2021)
Women and violent extremism: definitions and conceptions. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Oxford University

Press. <https://oxfordre.com/criminology/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.001.0001/acrefore-9780190264079-e-683>

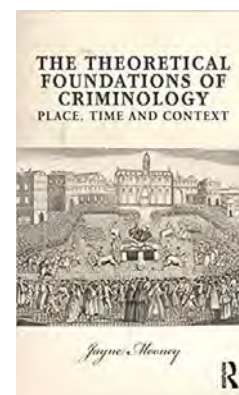
Faculty Achievements

Congratulations Jayne Mooney



In November Jayne Mooney received the **Life-Time Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology**, Division of Social Justice and Critical Criminology. This award acknowledges and honors sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and service in the field of critical criminology. The Chair of the Division, Dr Selman, wrote: "I must say that in my 20+ years in service to the DCCSJ I have never been more impressed by the widespread impact by a single individual. No less than 15 letters of nomination were received on your behalf and each one of them spoke in detail about your impact. This is the highest honor of the DCCSJ and the division is truly grateful for your scholarly contributions, your mentorship, leadership and overall representation of the spirit of the division". <https://twitter.com/ASCCriticalCrim/status/1325958983367135233> She was interviewed on her contributions to critical criminology for John Jay News - [http:// www.jjay.cuny.edu/news/sociology-professor-jaynemooney-winslifetime-achievement-award-work-critical-criminology](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/news/sociology-professor-jaynemooney-winslifetime-achievement-award-work-critical-criminology)

Jayne's book *The Theoretical Foundations of Criminology: Place, Time and Context*, (Routledge) was reviewed in *Theoretical Criminology* and she has recently published two articles on her research on the history of Rikers Island and the role of critical social history for *Prison Journal* and the *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*. She is currently in contract with Temple Press, for the forthcoming book *Rikers Island: A Social History of the Other New York*, which aims to tell the history of NYC through the history of incarceration and exclusion.



Professors Yolanda Ortiz-Rodriguez & Jayne Mooney

Yolanda Ortiz-Rodriguez (Lead PI) and Jayne Mooney, continue to expand their research on the experiences of survivors and victims of domestic violence. Their current projects are part of The Social Anatomy for Deportation Regime (SADR) research working group and help to highlight the various layers of victimization and impact of domestic violence on undocumented women.

Amid growing concerns of the pandemic and the forced lockdown experienced by many, Yolanda and Jayne, surely like many others, became concerned about the impact the new mandates would have on the victims of domestic violence- particularly, undocumented women. Yolanda has over the last year been interviewing research participants, domestic violence organization leaders, and advocates to discuss how the women were navigating services and to explore how fears of deportation impacted the decisions the women made around their safety and that of their families during the pandemic. It was not surprising to learn about the increased calls to help lines and the heightened feelings of personal insecurity and precariousness felt by the participants during the pandemic. The findings of this research will be published later this year.



Faculty Awards/Research Grants

Congratulations Maria Volpe



The American Arbitration Association– International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR) Foundation awarded Professor Maria Volpe a \$50,000 grant for a mental health communication and conflict resolution resource platform for libraries.

Libraries are widely used public community centers that often experience conflicts and challenging behaviors related to patrons with mental health needs and those who are homeless. They also serve as “go to” centers where community members in need of information for their mental health conflicts can find resources.

This project will create a user-friendly online conflict resolution and mental health communication learning platform equipping librarians to prevent and respond to challenges at their libraries. It will also include a shareable section for library staff to disseminate mental health communication and conflict resolution resources to their patrons, featuring question and answer programs as well as the DRMH Initiative’s programs and directories for peers, families, and housing providers. Finally, the project will serve as the library community’s “Mental Health Communication and Conflict Resolution Hub,” sharing referrals from multiple conflict resolution service directories including a new one created for this project.

In partnership with library associations and MH Mediate led by Dan Berstein, these resources will be shared with public libraries throughout the country representing over thousands of locations and millions of patrons. Resources are available at www.drmhinitiative.org.

Professor Maria Volpe 2021 Winner! Of The City University of New York Office of Research- \$40,000 Interdisciplinary Research Grant!

Abstracts for the winning proposals are below

<https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/research/faculty-resources/internal-funding/interdisciplinary-research-grant-program/2021-irg-grant-winners/IRG-Winner-Abstracts-1.pdf>

Faculty Awards/Research Grants



Shirley P. Leyro

Shirley P. Leyro, one of our longstanding adjuncts in sociology and critical criminology and member of John Jay's Social Anatomy of a Deportation Regime Project, who received her PhD from CUNY (now Assistant Professor at CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College) was awarded the Teaching Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division of People of Color and Crime. This Award recognizes a member of the DPCC who possesses excellence in teaching race, ethnicity, crime, and justice related courses. Dr. Leyro has shown extraordinary commitment to working with disadvantaged students to help them achieve their goal of obtaining a higher education.

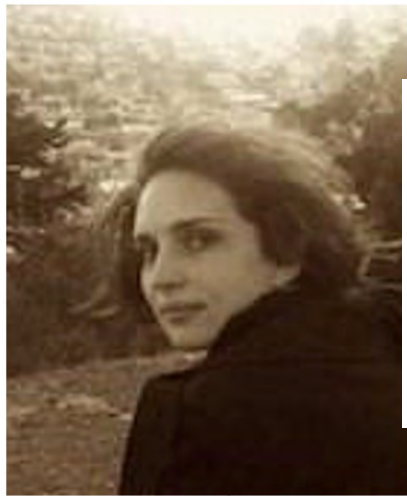


Jennifer Ortiz

Jennifer Ortiz, another of our longstanding adjuncts in sociology and critical criminology who received her PhD from CUNY (now Assistant Professor at Indiana University Southeast), was awarded the Outstanding Article of the Year Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division of Convict Criminology for, 'The System Is Not Broken, It Is Intentional: The Prison Reentry Industry as Deliberate Structural Violence', *Prison Journal*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (2019).

Faculty Profiles

Sarah Hanks



Sarah Hanks

I am an adjunct professor and activist. My research concerns prefigurative politics, subcultures, social movements, and transformative justice. At John Jay College, I teach Introduction to Sociology, Social Deviance, and Global Social Movements. More information can be found at my website: www.sarahmhanks.com and my blog: www.culturalsociology.wordpress.com

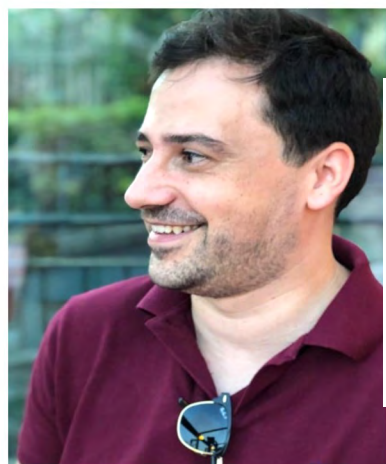
Marisa Tramontano



Marisa
Tramontano

I got my PhD in Sociology with a Graduate Certification in Gender Studies from the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and I have an MS in Global Affairs from New York University. At John Jay, I teach Political Sociology and Theories of Social Order, and I teach gender studies and social movements at NYU Gallatin. I'm also a community organizer with Bay Ridge for Social Justice in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. We focus on antiracism and community building, abolition of police and prisons, sanctuaryhood and the abolition of ICE, and practice Palestinian solidarity through the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement.

Daniel Colligan



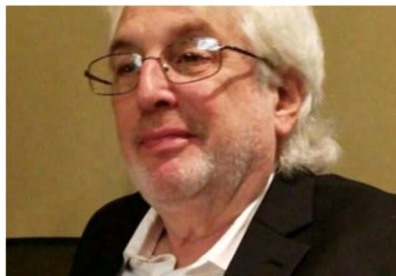
Daniel
Colligan

I am a Ph.D student in Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center, focusing on the political economy of agriculture in early modern Germany. I have taught the Classical Sociological Theory and Food Justice courses at John Jay. (I am also able to teach Intro and courses on other historical topics, e.g., Social Change, Global Social Movements.)

In Memory Of...

The Department of Sociology mourns the loss of three of its former chairs who passed away since the last edition of our newsletter.

Barry Spunt



Remembering Barry Spunt by David Brotherton

The Reagan administration had just embarked on their “Just Say No” policy to drugs when Barry started his career as a Research Assistant at Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc. (NDRI), in 1981. Street drug research was still in its infancy, but Barry advanced rapidly to become a Principal Investigator, receiving federal funding for research projects in a range of areas, including gambling problems among methadone patients, women in drug fueled relationships that ended in murder, and drug and alcohol use among mentally challenged adults. I

In 1993, after over 10 successful years, Barry was recruited to the Sociology Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice as an Associate Professor where his expert knowledge and experience were key to attracting and retaining research funds and building the department. This was borne out in 1998, when a multi-million-dollar federal study of the resurgence of heroin in New York City was threatened by scandal. Immediately, the John Jay administration looked to Barry to salvage the project and the college’s reputation. That success was followed by a major award from the National Institute of Justice in 2000 to study changes in street-level drug markets on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, the same neighborhood where Barry began as a researcher twenty years earlier.

In 2001, Barry was elected Chair of the Sociology Department, ushering in a period of stability with his geniality, infectious humor and non-confrontational style so highly appreciated by his colleagues. Although Barry never aspired to be an administrator – he was first and foremost a scholar and a pedagogue – his commitment to the institution saw him take on administrative roles throughout his career. These included 9 years on the Sociology Department’s Personnel and Budget Committee, Deputy Executive Officer of the Criminal Justice PhD program and Co-Director of the Criminal Justice Master’s Program. As an educator, Barry was known for his extraordinary abilities as a mentor. Connecting to students at all levels and from all backgrounds, his classes on research methods and the sociology of drugs and deviance were some of the most popular in the college. It was a typical day in the sociology department to see a line of students outside Barry’s door waiting to see their joke-telling professor who put them at ease and gave them the encouragement they needed to pursue their academic dreams. As a scholar, Barry published two books, more than 40 peer reviewed articles and made scores of presentations at professional conferences both nationally and internationally. Barry also took the lead in John Jay’s many scholarly collaborations abroad, mentoring generations of students from the UK, Germany, Holland, Spain and Russia from the prison abolitionist Common Studies Critical Criminology Consortium to the Hogere School for Applied Sciences in Amsterdam.

Growing up in the Boston area during the 1960s and earning a BA degree in Sociology at U Mass, Amherst in 1970, Barry was witness to the counterculture and political activism that characterized his generation. Throughout his life he championed the cause of social justice and the music of that iconoclastic era. His last two major works, *Heroin and Music in New York City* and *Heroin, Acting and Comedy in New York City* reflected his scholarly fascination with this drug’s deep impact on American and New York life in all its facets. His last book before his untimely death was to be titled *19th Century Opium Dens and Dealers in New York City*, and would have completed his scholarly goal of a trilogy in a subject area that had long occupied his sociological imagination. Our dear friend and colleague Barry Spunt left his beloved daughter Sarah Beth, his brother Larry and the world a better place for his presence.

In Memory Of...

David Goddard

David Goddard joined the Department in the early 1970s. He served several terms as chair during the late 1980s into the 1990s. He focused on sociological theories in his teaching and scholarship. Born in Great Britain, he retired to Southampton, Long Island and then wrote a book about the town's history.

Ray Pitt

Ray Pitt served as chair during the 1980s. His major contributions to the Department included establishing courses and programs enabling students to obtain certification in alcohol and drug abuse counseling. Ray helped the college and the community by developing a training program for NYPD officers who were called upon to intervene when mentally ill persons were experiencing a crisis. He also was a central figure in John Jay's Human Dignity courses, a program sponsored by the U.S. State Department that trained police officers from around the world. He retired in 1992.



Whom To Contact

CO- CHAIR

Robert Garot 212.237.8680
rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu

CO- CHAIR

Jayne Mooney 212.237.8000 ext.2660
jmooney@jjay.cuny.edu

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Alisa Thomas 212.887.6123
althomas@jjay.cuny.edu

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

Theresa Rockett 212.237.8666
trockett@jjay.cuny.edu

CRIMINOLOGY COORDINATOR

Andrew Karmen 212.237.8695
akarmen@jjay.cuny.edu

SOCIOLOGY COORDINATOR

Jana Arsovska 646.557.4436
jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CERTIFICATE AND MINOR-CUNY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

Coordinator and Adviser
Maria Volpe 212.237.8692
dispute@jjay.cuny.edu

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Coordinator and Advisers
Rosemary Barberet 212.237.8676
rbarberet@jjay.cuny.edu

Jana Arsovska 646.557.4436
jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Coordinator and Advisers
Valli Rajah 212.237.8675
vrajah@jjay.cuny.edu

Amy Adamczyk 646.557.4695
aadamczyk@jjay.cuny.edu

