

Sociology Graduate Program

Newsletter: Spring 2018



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Chair's Column: Dr. Furjen Deng

Dear Graduate Students,

Whether you are a new or returning student, I hope the 2018 spring semester is off to a great start for all of you. During the past fall semester, we said goodbye to the following students who successfully earned a Master of Arts in Sociology: Derrick Clemons, Sarah Lloyd, Amanda Silva Jameson, and Julie Steiner. Congratulations!

At the department level, I am happy to report to you that the comprehensive external program review of the M.A. in Sociology at SHSU was successfully completed in 2017. A big thanks goes to Dr. Konefal who spent a tremendous amount of time and effort preparing the self-study report and action plan to respond to recommendations presented by the external program reviewers. The external reviewers found the M.A. program in Sociology at SHSU to be a rigorous program with multiple strengths. These strengths include, but are not limited to, a strong graduate curriculum characterized by collaboration, innovation, and incorporating new approaches for evaluating and enhancing teaching at the graduate level; faculty publishing with graduate students; excellent job done by the graduate program director ...etc. They also identified several challenges the M.A. program faces moving forward and provided several recommendations on how to further strengthen the program. In response to the challenges and reviewers' recommendations, an action plan was developed and a list of activities/changes will be gradually implemented over the course of the next two years.



Furthermore, as we done in the past, the Sociology Department is committed to ensuring our students have the necessary support and resources to successfully complete the requirements for the M.A. program in Sociology. In addition to scholarship support, we will continue to encourage and provide funding support for students traveling to professional meetings for presentations and publications. Please let Dr. Konefal, your professor, or myself know if you are interested in enhancing your professional experience within the discipline.

In the Fall 2017, we also successfully completed the search for two positions. The first position is a new tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor. Ms. Scherer, currently ABD at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will complete her dissertation in May and join the department in the Fall 2018. She will teach and conduct research on class and inequality and other selected areas. The second position is a lecturer position. Dr. Joseph Gallo has more than ten years of teaching experience at SHSU and has extensive research experience in community and urban settings. We are excited to have these two extremely talented people joining us, and their presence will further diversify our course offerings and research opportunities for our students

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Department of Sociology at Sam Houston State University. I wish that all of you to have a great year ahead and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely Yours,

Furjen Deng, Ph. D.
Professor and Chair

Fall 2018
Commencement
with Sociology
MA graduates
Sarah Lloyd and
Amanda Silva
Jameson



Graduate Director's Column: Dr. Konefal



Hello All! I hope everyone's semester is off to a good start. This semester we have **3 new students** starting their graduate studies in the Sociology Program. I would like to welcome to the Masters Program the following students: Christine Campbell, Theresa Douple, and Rubin Sandlin. We also have **our first student** in our brand new Certificate Program in Sociology: Federico Zaragoza. Please extend a warm welcome to them.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to consider applying for the many scholarships offered by Sam Houston. These are great opportunities! The most immediate deadlines are: CHSS Scholarship:

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/humanities-and-social-sciences/scholarships.html>

(Application Due February 22) and the Sociology Department Scholarships:

http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/scholarship_blocks/chss.html#sociology (Due March 2).

This semester three Sociology MA students have received funding to present their research at conferences: Megan Bennett to attend the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Association; Kenneth Arsenault to attend the Eastern Sociological Association Meeting; and Adam McRoberts to attend the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Association. Congratulations!

The Sociology Department Faculty and Staff are working hard to continue to grow our graduate programs in Sociology. We have several key initiatives in the work. Beginning in the fall semester, there will be a new 1-credit proseminar for all new graduate student students. The seminar will introduce incoming students to graduate school, the Sociology Department Faculty, the research process, and the sociological imagination. We will also make some of these resources available to current students through a new blackboard site. We are also working to develop a new thematic emphasis to the program. Stay tuned for more information on this!

Lastly, please make sure to look at the "Important Dates" section at the end of the newsletter for information on university and conference deadlines.

I look forward to continuing to work with everyone this semester.

Department of Sociology
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
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SOCIOLOGY

Online Master's Degree

Our students say
Our program is challenging and high quality!
Our faculty are accessible, helpful and passionate!

A rigorous, flexible program designed for students interested in careers in education, social services and research.
Scholarships available.

For more information contact:
Dr. Jason Konefal,
Director of Graduate Studies
8007@shsu.edu
936.284.3424

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Alumni Spotlight: Hai Trieu Isabelle Nguyen

Chao Ban! Howdy! Hola! Hafa adai! These represent the different greetings that I have used in my life being born in Vietnam, resettling in Houston, TX, and living on Guam for a few years. Cultures and how different groups of people behave have always fascinated me. On one of my side trips from Guam, my husband and I travelled to Yap. Men and women on Yap are topless and they still use stone money. Women do not show their thighs. It was my first time admitting that I have many ethnocentric ideas of what is proper.



For four years from 2012 to 2016, the sociology professors at Sam Houston University opened my eyes and challenged the paradigm of righteous thinking that I had. Whether it was my family and marriage class, sociology of health, to environmental sociology, they all challenged me to become a better person... a better human being. It is with that same mission that I apply in my classroom now that I am teaching at Sam Houston University as a full-time adjunct professor.

It was a privilege that I was able to do my Master of Arts in Sociology with Sam Houston State University. Many of my professors from my Master's program genuinely cared about me as a whole person. Through their mentoring, I have been able to successfully find a new career which gives me purpose. Most people do not look forward to going back to work from the winter holidays. For me, I couldn't wait to go back to school! After hibernating for six weeks for Christmas, it is with a leaping joyful heart that I return to teach my third semester at Sam Houston. May you find that passion in your next career move.

Dr. Takett Gibson,
Director of Internships
for the Sociology
Department, and CHSS
students doing relief
work for Hurricane
Harvey Victims



Important Dates

Comprehensive Exam: April 2-16

Schedule Changes and Dropping Classes

Last Day to Drop with a "Q" Grade: April 6

Spring and Scheduling

Advising will begin March 26

- Advising slots will be scheduled using SignUpGenius.com

Registration Opens for Summer and Fall: April 16

Graduation

Commencement: May 10-12

For Thesis Dates Please See:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html?Sem=Spring&Year=2018>



Sociology for the People

Preliminary Summer and Fall 2018 Schedule

Summer 2018

SOCI 5337: Gender and Society

Dr. Cabaniss

SOCI 5324: Seminar in Social Change and Development

Dr. Leipnik

Fall 2018

SOCI 5310:01: Seminar in Sociological Theory

Dr. Bonanno

SOCI 5310:02: Seminar in Sociological Theory

Dr. Bonanno

SOCI 5312:01: Seminar in Sociological Research

Dr. Wynveen

SOCI 5312:02: Seminar in Sociological Research

Dr. Wynveen

SOCI 5314: Social Statistics

TBA

SOCI 5320: Sociology of Community

Dr. Theodori

SOCI 5353: 01: Seminar in Race and Ethnic Studies

Dr. Gardner

SOCI 5353: 02: Seminar in Race and Ethnic Studies

Dr. Gardner

SOCI 5380: Social Impact Assessment and Program Evaluation

Dr. Deng