

Chair's Corner: Dr. Chad Smith



In this edition of [“The Promise”](#) we provide updated information on recent events, accomplishments, and achievements by the department’s faculty. However, I’d like to begin by expressing the department’s well wishes to the entire alumni community. The events of the COVID-19 pandemic have upended so many aspects of our lives and we’d like to share our well wishes to all of you as you navigate this unprecedented time.

The newsletter begins with a spotlight on our newest faculty member, who joined us in the fall of 2019. Claude Bonazzo (BA 2001, MA 2004) (p.2) received his PhD from The University of Texas at Austin. In addition to this new beginning, we also honor the 57 years of service by Lillian Dees to Texas State University (p.6), including 19 years as a faculty member in the department.

We also highlight the 2019 accomplishments of [our faculty](#) (p.3) – join me in congratulating all of our faculty on a productive year. Two of our faculty are featured in our faculty spotlight (p.5): Dr. Gloria Martinez-Ramos, who was the recipient of the Muriel Muir Mentoring Award, and Dr. Rachel Romero, who was awarded the Presidential Award for Teaching by a Lecturer.

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I want to thank you for reading “The Promise” and I greatly appreciate your interest in the department. Please keep up with our [news and events](#) and keep us posted on your great achievements via facebook and twitter. Be safe, be kind, and be well.

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New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Claude Bonazzo



Joining this department has been a dream of mine! My passion for sociology started in this department more than 15 years ago. I got my bachelor's in applied sociology (2001) and my master's in sociology (2004) in this department. I had such a wonderful experience with the professors and students that I really wanted to return one day to teach and give back to a community that really supported me. Prior to coming to Texas State, I taught classes at the Austin Community College and as a teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Austin.

My teaching and research interests are on race/ethnicity, education, health, and disability. My dissertation was a mixed methods study that sought to identify policy-relevant mechanisms that aim to improve the educational prospects of Latinxs in the United States, a group with traditionally lower levels of educational attainment compared with other race/ethnic groups. I focused on children in elementary school, which is increasingly viewed as a critical window for intervention in the intergenerational transmission of inequality. Within this educational stage, I focused on parent-teacher relations, which has generated much theoretical and policy attention. I explored the potential support generated for the educational involvement of Latinxs parents based on being ethnically matched with their children's teachers as their children move through elementary school.

I am incredibly grateful to join Texas State's Department of Sociology to serve the faculty and especially the students.

Pa'lante todos juntos!

Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Awards and Grants

Dr. Audwin Anderson recently became the recipient of the 2020 JV Educational Leadership Award for providing outstanding leadership within the field of higher education. He will receive his honor at the 18th Annual International Males of Color Empowerment and Retention Conference in October 2020.

Dr. Gloria Martinez-Ramos is the recipient of the Pardee Rand Faculty Leaders program in Policy Research and Analysis. As part of the Rand Leadership program, Dr. Martinez-Ramos recently led a webinar on mentoring students about doing research on public policy.

Dr. Rachel Romero received the 2019 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Gayle Bouzard is the department's 2020 nominee to the College of Liberal Arts for the Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award at the Senior Lecturer level.

In 2019, **Dr. Xi Pan** applied and was chosen for the Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI) supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).

Current Events, Talks, and Presentations

Dr. Bob Price presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in San Diego. The title of the paper was, "Teaching the Role of Academia: Hoaxes, Identity, and the Purpose of the Liberal Arts."

Dr. Joe Kotarba presented a multi-media discussion of "Music in and for Aging," as the spring 2020 event of the Arts and Lecture Series at the Round Rock Campus of Texas State University. This lecture is part of his ongoing research project, "Music Across the Life Course."

Dr. Seoyoun Kim is accepted to attend the 4th Genomics for Social Scientists workshop, held at the University of Michigan. This week-long, NIA-sponsored workshop offers hands-on training on incorporating genetic information into social science analyses.

Wivagg, Jon, Dipko, S, Gundersen, D, and Delnevo, C. "How do the frequency and content of voice mail messages affect cell phone survey response?" Presented at the annual conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Toronto, Canada. May 18, 2019.

Johnson, Christopher (organizer), Teresa Vannoy (MSDA graduate student), Roxanne Johnson, and J. Bulot. (April 15, 2019). "Human Rights and Citizenship for Persons Living with Dementia." American Society on Aging Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Tina Villarreal presented at the Career and Financial Education One-Day Symposium on February 28, 2020. Ms. Villarreal presenting and led a workshop entitled, "The Top Reasons Why Doing an Internship is Important!"

Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

Aldana Marquez, Beatriz. (2019). *From the Peaceable to the Barbaric: Thorstein Veblen and the Charro Cowboy*. UK: Routledge.

Clement, Mathew T., Nathan W. Pino, Patrick Greiner, and Julius McGee. "Are the Sustainable Development Goals Interconnected? A Quantitative Analysis Using Cross Lagged Models with Reciprocal Effects." *Sociology of Development*. 6:1, 91-115.

Clement, Matthew T., Nathan W. Pino, and Jarrett Blaustein. "Homicide Rates and the Multiple Dimensions of Urbanization: A Longitudinal Cross-National Analysis." *Sustainability*. 11, 5855.

Dr. David Dietrich has a book chapter that has been accepted for publication, titled "Recruiting White 'Victims': White Supremacist Flyers on College Campuses". It's set to be published in *Protecting Whiteness: Whitelash and the Rejection of Racial Equality*, edited by Cameron Lippard.

Edwards, Michelle L. 2019. "Uncertainty and Trustworthiness in Discussions of Fracking: Exploring the Views of Academic Scientists and Local Governmental Representatives." *The Extractive Industries and Society* 6: 1113-1121.

Gretchen Webber and **Patti Giuffre.** 2019. "Women's Relationships with Women at Work: Barriers to Solidarity." *Sociology Compass* 13(6):1-13.

Harris, Deborah A. and Rachel Romero. 2019. "What's a Farm? Who's a Farmer?: Heuristics and City Governance of Urban Farming" *Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 9(4): 21-36.

Majumdar, Debarun and Martinez, Gloria. 2019. "An Examination of the Association between Microaggression and Well-being among Latina/os of Mexican-descent in the United States." *Michigan Sociological Review* 33: 10-24.

Smith, Chad L. and Michael Lengefeld (BS Applied Sociology 2008; MA Sociology 2011). 2019. "The Environmental Consequences of Asymmetric War: A Panel Study of Militarism and Carbon Emissions, 2000-2010." Online first in *Armed Forces & Society*.

Watt, Toni, Ceballos, Natalie, **Kim, Seoyoun, Pan, Xi,** and Sharma, Shobit. 2019. "The Unique Nature of Depression and Anxiety among College Students with Adverse Childhood Experiences." Forthcoming in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*.

Announcements

Effective Fall 2019, **Dr. Kyong Hee Chee** is the graduate program coordinator for the M.S. in Dementia and Aging Studies

Kelly Mosel-Talavera re-joined the Applied Sociology Internship Program in July of 2019. She and Tina Villarreal co-facilitate our personalized, hugely successful internship experience offered to majors completing their BS in Applied Sociology.

Colin Pierson is the new director of the statistics tutoring office in Fall 2019. Kay Newling served for over 15 years as director.

Michael Whitehawk is excited about teaching his new course on Social Stratification.

Faculty Spotlight: Big Awards



Dr. Gloria Martínez-Ramos: 2019 Recipient of the Texas State University Mariel Muir Mentoring Award

Dr. Gloria Martínez-Ramos is the faculty recipient of 2019-20 Mariel Muir Mentoring Award for her dedication and strong commitment to mentoring students, faculty, and staff to ensure their success. Texas State University named this award in honor of Dr. Muir, the former dean of the College of Science and Engineering to recognize her strong commitment to mentoring. Dr. Martínez-Ramos' mentoring goes beyond one-on-one mentoring with students and faculty. Her one-on-one and group mentoring is a form of inclusive mentoring; she mentors in multiple ways with many different groups. Our department, college, university, and local community are fortunate to have such an exceptional role model.

Dr. Rachel Romero: 2019 Recipient of the Texas State University Presidential Award and College of Liberal Arts Award in Teaching

Dr. Rachel Romero, Senior Lecturer and Associate Graduate Director of Graduate Programs, has received several teaching honors and awards, including the Alpha Chi Favorite Professor Awards, the John R. Hood Honors Professor of the Year Award, and a College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. She has also received a Graduating Student Recognition in every semester that she has taught. Since joining our department, she has been actively engaged with mentoring and supporting undergraduate and graduate students by writing papers with students, supervising independent studies, and serving on honors theses, and graduate theses. Her mentees, many of whom are award recipients, go on to impressive jobs (e.g. applied researchers, teachers, and positions in non-profit organizations) and graduate programs. As part of Dr. Romero's innovative teaching, she encourages students to engage in self-reflection and goes beyond simply asking them to apply the course material. She pushes students to interrogate how inequalities influence their everyday lives. Dr. Romero offers and values a highly participatory classroom that breaks down the hierarchy between faculty instructors and students. She sees her classrooms as "communities of learners," and imparts this democratic message in how she teaches, her welcoming of diverse ideas, and her open and authentic presentation of self. Dr. Romero teaches an innovative honors course that integrates her research specializations on "Art-Based Research Methods." In fall 2020, Dr. Romero will become a tenure-track assistant professor for our department.



Professor Lillian Dee's Retirement

In the fall of 2019, Lillian Dees retired from the Department of Sociology after serving as a faculty member since 1990. She began teaching as an adjunct while employed full-time by the university and she eventually became a full-time faculty member as a senior lecturer. However, Lillian's time at Texas State spans more than five decades – 57 years in all. Lillian stepped foot onto the campus, on what was then called Southwest Texas State College, as an administrative secretary in the Department of Journalism and News Service in September of 1962. She served as administrative secretary for the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and eventually she became the Director of the LBJ Student Center. During that time she earned two degrees from the university. In her time, she witnessed Lyndon B. Johnson sign the Higher Education Act in 1965 and her career spanned 9 Texas State University Presidents. Lillian and the department has established the Lillian Dees and Darla Wood Endowed Scholarship to honor the memory of her daughter and her own legacy in the department. We are grateful to Lilly and the time she devoted to the university, the college, and the department and although we will miss her, we wish her well in her retirement.



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