

# The Socializer

## Spring Academic Awards



WESTERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY



Graduate Students who presented or published research in 2016-2017:  
(L to R) Keiondra Grace, Olivia McLaughlin, Diane Roushangar, Kristen Witzel, Byron Miller. Not pictured: Darrick Brake, Traci Joseph, Zach Oaster, Rebecca Sevin, Jessica Sullivan.

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## On Close Reading and General Education

*The unattractiveness of the words does not affect the existence of the logical matter in any way.*

Max Weber, *The Logic of the Cultural Sciences* p. 188

by Dr. David Hartmann

What a great sentiment, and so appropriate at the end of a seriously infelicitous 75 page essay. I can't tell you how often I've wanted to say something like that sentence as I've struggled to communicate a point I was so sure was worthwhile. But somehow it was not getting through and it had to be, what else could it be, that the words were inadequate, the felicity and polish (temporarily) unavailable. Weber's words have the additional attraction of implicitly assigning responsibility to the reader or the listener. Do not be so shallow, they warn, as to miss my truth through your inability to attend to something not prettied up and defanged. But this self-aggrandizing myth rings hollow.

(cont. page 2)



### Dr. Chien-Juh Gu

Dr. Gu was chosen by the graduate students as the Outstanding Faculty Mentor for 2016-2017. Dr. Gu is being presented the certificate by graduate student, Matt Reid.

## On Close Reading and General Education (cont.)

There is unfortunately another possibility which is that the thought and the words and the context conspire to accomplish the reception of our expressed ideas. The idea, by this reckoning, does not really exist except through its various instantiations - as expressed and received. In a context of imperfect communication, the understanding of an utterance or a text can therefore never be correct, it can only be more or less adequate. The subject of the essay form which Weber's line was drawn was oddly related to this. The essay explored the nature of causation in history and by extension, the social sciences: what sort of causality is possible, what is its logic, in these fields? His answer, famously, is the notion of adequate causation in a context of imperfect knowledge. Weber argues that the study of causes depends to some degree on one's interest in studying and indeed in demarcating a historical event. In the spirit of infelicitous expression, let us call that object of interest the "thing." The thing may be of interest for its own sake as might be the case of aesthetically impressive things (a poem of Goethe, a canvas of ... Pollock, and so on). It might be of interest as a part of a currently important part of our world (the Revolutionary War is important to those interested in the United States as an historical entity). Or a thing may not matter much on those grounds yet exemplify an interesting theme or idea. Weber calls this a heuristic use. The point is that the active researcher makes these things; she does not uncover or find them.

I am drawn to Weber's essay itself -this thing of 75 pages written in 1905 and found lolling about at the end of a 1948 edited volume – largely for heuristic reasons. It has something to say about contemporary notions of causality to be sure but, probably, not enough to warrant its unpacking. It is an example of Weber's thinking on methodology and so has interest toward that theme. But because a close reading of Weber's essay is necessary, due in part to its

infelicitous packaging, it gives us practice in that art. We may practice and improve our skills of attention and comparison and questioning and creating and connecting the dots as it were – the practice of the universal methods of scholarship. And that is certainly of interest to me as a teacher. I suppose all classics are ultimately justified in this dual manner – as aesthetic or intellectual exemplars but also as grist for our mills of discernment and appreciation. Those tools will and must be turned to non-classical matters but they are better suited to such work through the pains and rewards of this guided exposure.

One rationale for that poor relation of academic life, general education, is this notion of the powers of appreciation. To appreciate means to understand in reference to multiple comparative perspectives and to assign value on that basis. It is higher order work to be sure, perhaps the higher order work of responsible citizens. How could we think such citizenship is possible without explicit attention? How could one appreciate and navigate the choices of citizenship if one has not developed the powers needed – the "powers of the mind" as Donald Levine put it with customary felicity? The powers of logic and comparison and discernment and critique and, I suppose ultimately, of dealing with a world of choices and possibilities rather than one of necessity. To be approached with responsibility, one must recognize that the world does not have to be the way that it is, or any particular way at all, but that it must be recognized as a set of almost infinite possibilities.

And this nicely returns us to Weber's notion of causality: The basic idea is this one of possibility. History is not simply what was. It is a packaging and abstraction of elements and ideas and perspectives driven by complex and often unarticulated interests. And the idea of causality is like that too. A cause is only understandable as a cause through an abstraction of it as a thing and in comparison to things like it –

also abstractions – and in contrast to other things that might have had sway. The counterfactual becomes the basis of historical causative logic – can one reasonably (with validity) say that for want of a nail, ...? If so, the nail is causative.


On such nails are built a methodology and a logic of inquiry. A way of thinking better, though not perfectly, suited to our otherwise incomprehensible worlds. The continued guided practice of such methods may produce a set of habits or even a discipline – in the personal and academic senses - that can serve us well. These are defensible and even necessary educational goals.

So forgive us our failures of expression – and forgive us our hard authors even when their difficulty is so obviously self-inflicted. It is our common lot as gregarious expressive animals to want to speak and be understood but inevitably to fall short. The best of our teachers do not shy from this reality and so the best served of our students will have practiced an attention that nurtures tolerance for such failings. This in opens worlds to their scrutiny and perhaps to their amelioration.



Max Weber

## Faculty News



**Dr. Ron Kramer** was recognized for his 25 years of serving the department as the Director of the Criminal Justice Program.

### Dr. Angie Moe

**Dr. Moe** was elected to the Trauma Recovery Associates Board of Directors for a 3-year term. To link to the Trauma Recovery Associate's website go to: <http://www.traumarecoveryassociates.com/index.html>. (See cover of most recent newsletter above.)

**Moe** also presented "Partner Abuse Changes with Pregnancy and Postpartum: A Mixed Methods Analysis" with Drs. Cathy Kothari and Grace Lubwama, at the 35th Annual Kalamazoo Community Medical and Health Sciences Research Day, May 2 in Kalamazoo. Sponsored by Homer Stryker School of Medicine.

**Dr. Moe** made a poster presentation titled "'I'd rather get slapped around. Physical pain heals, but mental abuse - you never forget': How women perceive the effect of intimate partner violence on their pregnancies" with Drs. Pamela Wadsworth and Cathy Kothari, at the 25th Anniversary Congress on Women's Health, April 28-30 in Washington, DC.

### Dr. Chien-Juh Gu

**Dr. Gu** was recently appointed by the American Sociological Association Council to serve on the ASA Honors Program Advisory Panel for a three-year term. This appointment was recommended by the ASA Honors Program because of the outstanding performance of **Dr. Gu's** two students at the 2015 ASA conference. Every year, the ASA Honors Program selects about 30 students across the nation and internationally to attend the ASA and present research papers. Two AKD students under **Dr. Gu's** guidance were accepted to this highly competitive and prestigious program in 2015.

**Dr. Gu** was nominated by the NCSA past president, Dr. Brendan Mullan, and elected to serve as a council member of the North Central Sociological Association.

**Dr. Gu** presented a paper, "Money or Culture? Spousal Power Relations in Taiwanese Immigrant Families." At the Sociologists for Women in Society conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in February.

**Dr. Gu** was invited by the Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago to present her research about Burmese refugees in Battle Creek at the Asian American Civic Leadership Conference in Detroit in May.



### Dr. Elena Gapova

Published "The Classes of Nations: Feminist Critique of Nationbuilding" (Klassy natsiy: feministkaya kritika natsiosyoitel'stva) at the *New Literary Observer*, the most prestigious Russian non-fiction publisher, in Moscow in the fall of 2016.

The book, which discusses the intersection of gender, class stratification, and nationbuilding in post-socialism, is a collection of new and some previously published papers grouped into four sections: 1. The Classes of Nations; 2. Capitalism and Globalization; 3. Language-Gender-Subject 4. The Feminist Criticism of (Post-Soviet) Feminism.

*Novaya Gazeta (a Moscow based newspaper) has listed the volume among the ten most important non-fiction books of the year in Russia.*



## Faculty News



### Dr. Whitney DeCamp

#### Publications:

**DeCamp, Whitney**, and Christopher J. Ferguson. (2017). "The Impact of Degree of Exposure to Violent Video Games, Family Background, and Other Factors on Youth Violence." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 46, 388-400. doi:10.1007/s10964-016-0561-8

Lane, David C., and **Whitney DeCamp**. (2017). "Sports will Keep 'em out of Trouble": A Comparative Analysis of Substance Use among Adolescents and Young Adults." *Journal of Sport and Health Research*, 9, 41-52.

#### Presentations:

**DeCamp, Whitney**. (2017, March). "New Developments in Assessing the Relationship Between Violent Video Games and Violent Behavior." Presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters, Kalamazoo, MI.

**DeCamp, Whitney**, and Kevin Daly. (2016, October). "Race and Poverty vs. Substance Use: Competing Explanations for Poor Standardized Test Performance." Presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Sociological Association, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

**DeCamp, Whitney**, and **Rebecca Sevin**. (2016, October). "Raising the Bar on User Experience Studies: A Mixed Methods Approach for Website and Catalog Evaluations." Presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Library Association, Lansing, MI.



### Dr. Zoann Snyder

#### International Week at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands

Dr. Snyder presented her research: *Reentry and Restorative Justice: The Challenges for Persons Returning From Prison*.

While prisoner reentry is not a new idea or practice in corrections in the United States, it has received renewed interest as the nation faces the collateral consequences of mass incarceration: the unprecedented release of large numbers of prisoners into communities.

There are no simple solutions to be found by releasing large numbers of prisoners to the streets and limited dollars with which to supervise the swelling population of excons.



### Dr. Jesse Smith

#### Publication:

**Smith, Jesse M.** 2017. Review of *Recognizing the Non-Religious: Re-Imagining the Secular*, by Lois Lee. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 27(2):124-126.

#### Presentation:

**Smith, Jesse. M.** 2017. "The Rhetoric of Revelation: An Ethnographic Content Analysis of Mormon Leadership Discourse Over Time." Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters annual conference. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## Western Michigan University at the American Society of Criminology 2017 Conference

### Award Winners

The winners of the 2016 Division of Critical Criminology Awards are:

**Teaching Award:** *Elizabeth Bradshaw, (PhD 2012, WMU)*

**Critical Criminology Book Award:** *Carrie Buist (PhD 2011, WMU) and Emily Lenning (PhD 2008, WMU): Queer Criminology*

### Presentations

"The Rwandan Diaspora: The Culture of Silence" – **Jennifer Marson (PhD 2016, WMU)**.

"Suffer Silently, Silently Suffer: Veterans' Voices on Treatment by the State" – **Casey Schotter, (WMU)**, Dave Kauzlarich, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

"Institutional Pathways to Not High Serious Crime: A QCA Approach to Institutional Anomie Theory" – **Amanda Kahl Smith (PhD 2016, WMU)**, University of Michigan – Flint, **Susan Carlson, WMU**.

"Crisis Intervention Teams: Assessing their Scope and Impact" – **Barry Goetz, WMU**.

Poster: "Black Women as Scapegoats: The Mass Incarceration of Black Men and the Social Stigma of the Welfare Queen" – **Keiondra Grace, WMU, Olivia McLaughlin, WMU**.

"Dangerous Deals: A Theoretical Approach to Criminogenic Policies" – **Daniel Patten, WMU**.

"Antibiotics: The Nexus of State-Corporate Crime in Our Food Supply" – **Traci Joseph, WMU**.

"Climate Crimes: The Case of Exxon" – **Ronald Kramer, WMU, Elizabeth Bradshaw, (PhD 2015, WMU)**, Central Michigan.

"Thinking about Thinking in Criminal Justice Education" – **Patrick Cundiff, WMU**, Kerri Flinchbaugh, East Carolina Univ.

# Undergraduate Honors and Awards

## Departmental Presidential Scholar 2016-2017

**Bridget K. Grimaldi** is the Presidential Scholar in Sociology. Grimaldi is a graduate of Plainfield North High School. A member of WMU's Lee Honors College, she is majoring in criminal justice and general psychology and expects to graduate in April 2017. Following graduation, Grimaldi plans to work with offenders in a rehabilitation setting and help them develop vocational trades that assist in their further reintegration within society. At the end of April, she will be defending her honors college thesis, which looks at the effectiveness of education and vocational programs in correctional facilities in the state of Michigan. Grimaldi has been on the dean's list every semester since the start of her education at WMU. The Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program has hired her to work with offenders with substance abuse problems. During her time at WMU, Grimaldi has become involved with the student organization Alternative Bronco Breaks, which offers weeklong community service trips during school breaks.



**REBECCA FONFARA**  
The Sociology Scholar Award



**Ashley Saunders**  
Criminal Justice Scholar Award

**KELLEY LANGE**  
The Lloyd Braithwaite Scholar

**TRAEVON OLIVER**  
Robin Scholar



**AMBER HEJL**  
Kercher Center Scholar



**Alpha Phi Sigma Induction**  
(Criminal Justice National Honor Society)  
2016-2017

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Savanna Bankhead    | Nicholas Basak    |
| Loren Brown         | Marina Geider     |
| Caleb Kirby         | Dustin Lawrence   |
| Deshawn Madison     | Christian Pechman |
| Maaryssa Presbitero | Alissa Schwartz   |
| John-Paul Tallent   | Alexander Webbi   |
| Tyler Willison      | Macey Withrow     |



# Graduate Awards Banquet

## 2016-2017 PhD Grads

- **Darrick Brake**, (PhD, 2017) has a teaching position at Concord University, WV.
- **Jennifer Marson** (PhD, 2016) has a tenure-track position at Fayetteville State University, NC.
- **Melinda McCormick**, (PhD, 2016) has a tenure-track position at Marian College, IL.
- **Daniel Patten** (PhD, anticipated 2017) has a tenure-track position McMurry University in Abilene, TX.



- **Simon Purdy** (PhD, 2016) has been teaching at WMU.



- **Rachel Schroeder** (PhD, 2016) has a tenure-track position at Eastern Michigan University.
- **Amanda Kahl Smith** (PhD, 2016) has a tenure-track position at Univ. of Michigan-Flint.

## 2016-2017 MA Grads

- **Mr. David Brundage**
- **Mr. Ryan Castillo**
- **Ms. Olivia McLaughlin**
- **Ms. Brooke O'Neil**



Dr. Zoann Snyder presenting Kristen Witzel with the Wally Post Award.



Dr. Amanda Kahl Smith receiving her wedge from Dr. Susan Carlson.

### Departmental Awards:

*Graduate Research & Creative Scholar Award, MA:* Ryan Castillo

*Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award, MA:* Ryan Castillo

*Graduate Research & Creative Scholar Award, Honorable Mention, PhD:* Kristin Witzel

*Graduate Research & Creative Scholar Award:* Daniel Patten

*Department Representative for the Graduate Student Teaching Intensive Program:* Brian Lunn

*Recognition for Presenting or Publishing Research:* Darrick Brake, Keiondra Grace, Traci Joseph, Olivia McLaughlin, Byron Miller, Zach Oaster, Diane Roushangar, Rebecca Sevin, Jessica Sullivan, Kristen Witzel.

*Recognition for Teaching at WMU (2016-2017):* Alexander Fether, Robert Fritchman, Traci Joseph, Brian Lunn, Olivia McLaughlin, Byron Miller, Zach Oaster, Matt Reid, Robert Roznowski, Rebecca Sevin, Jessica Sullivan, Kristen Witzel.

*The Wally Post Award:* Kristen Witzel

### Graduate Students' Awards:

*Outstanding Faculty Mentor:* Dr. Chien-Juh Gu

*Outstanding Instructor, PhD:* Olivia McLaughlin

*Outstanding Researcher, PhD:* Keiondra Grace and Diane Roushanger

*Outstanding Future Academic, PhD:* Olivia McLaughlin

*Outstanding Mentor, PhD:* Brian Lunn

*Outstanding Student Research, MA:* Ryan Castillo and Randy LaPrairie

*Outstanding Mentor, MA:* Ryan Castillo

*Outstanding Future Academic, MA:* Ryan Castillo

*Outstanding Teaching Assistant, MA:* Samuel Imbody

### 2017 The Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Infrastructure Award

The STS Infrastructure Award Committee is pleased to recognize the editors of the Science and Technology Studies Handbooks with the 2017 Infrastructure Award. Each Handbook (1977, 1995, 2008, 2017) is the culmination of many years of careful planning and work by the editors – drafting a call, soliciting and selecting contributions, providing feedback, and co-ordinating a complex network of authors, texts, reviewers, publishers, guidelines, advisory committee members, and 4S Presidents and Council members. This is an excellent example of infrastructural work.

Each Handbook reflects the concerns, methods and insights of the time of its own production. Reading the chapters, and examining the contributors, their affiliations, chapter titles, indices and bibliographies of each individual Handbook reveals the emergence and history of STS. This series of four Handbooks brings together an array of research syntheses and at the same time maps the intellectual and institutional geography of our field, as well as its implications for neighbouring fields.

THE SERIES OF FOUR HANDBOOKS BRINGS TOGETHER AN ARRAY OF RESEARCH SYNTHESIS, AND AT THE SAME TIME MAPS THE INTELLECTUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF OUR FIELD...

The Handbooks are an important element of the STS infrastructure, produced by many, and used and read by countless students and scholars around the world. Both the preparation and the completed works contribute to the creation and maintenance of an international community of scholars and of a body of work that reflects past achievements and points to emerging issues. The Handbooks provide newcomers to the field with a comprehensive overview of important issues, concepts and theories with which to understand the complex relationships between science, technology, and society. The Handbooks are infrastructural work in the sense of providing an intellectual scaffold for further work and reflection.

Handbook Editors 1st edition (1977, Sage) – edited by Ina Spiegel-Rösing and Derek de Solla Price

2nd edition (1995, Sage) – edited by Sheila Jasanoff, **Gerald Markle (WMU) Emeriti**, **James Peterson (WMU) Emeriti**, and Trevor Pinch

3rd edition (2008, The MIT Press) – edited by Edward J. Hackett, Olga Amsterdamska, Michael Lynch, and Judy Wajcman

4th edition (2017, The MIT Press) – edited by Ulrike Felt, Rayvon Fouché, Clark A. Miller, and Laurel Smith-Doerr

2017 Infrastructure Committee Members: Geof Bowker, University of California, Irvine (chair); Kenji Ito, Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Sokendai, Japan; Gwen Ottinger, Drexel University, USA (4S Council member); Jane Summerton, VTI, Sweden; and Sally Wyatt, Maastricht University, The Netherlands.



## Graduate Student Research News/Activities



Ryan Costillo, Award Winner

### Graduate Student Research & Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day

The eleventh annual Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day was held April 13, 2017. Around 200 students, faculty, and staff attended this celebration of the research and creative works done by WMU graduate students. There were 48 poster presentations from across the University. The 33 faculty judges had the difficult task of scoring the presentations. The Sociology Department was well represented with three of the 48 poster presentations. Ryan Castillo was one of 18 students that was awarded a monetary prize for his outstanding poster presentation.



Diane Roushangar



Olivia McLaughlin and Keiondra Grace

### Keiondra Grace

Grace, K.G. (2017, March). "State violence against black women: A Daniel Holtzclaw case study". Presentation at the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Grace, K.G. (2017, March). "Intersectional approaches to sexual assault & harassment." Presentation at the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN.

### Anthony Frontiera

"Challenges to Short Time Evaluations" - Poster Presentation at WMU - Spring 2017.

"Evaluation of Kalamazoo Kids in Tune". Presentation to Administration - Evaluation Center - Spring 2017 (report published).

"Developing Baseline for Diversion Programming." Presentation at the Midwest Sociological Society, Milwaukee, WI. Spring 2017.

"Developing Baseline for Diversion Programming." Presentation to Administration/Judges/Referee's of Circuit Court, Kalamazoo, MI. Spring 2017.

### Matt Reid

Reid, M. 2016. "Photo (visual) Essay of Social Problems." Essay published in TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology. Washington DC: American Sociological Association. (<http://trails.asanet.org>)

### Traci Joseph

"What We Don't Know CAN Hurt Us: How Ignorance Studies Can Inform Criminological Theory." Presented at MSS, Milwaukee, April 2017.

"Would you like Antibiotic Resistance with that?" Ignorance Production as State-Corporate Crime." Presented at the Justice Studies Association, Detroit, MI.

**Correction from Fall 2016 Issue:** Jessica Church (MA, 2013) is the co-author with Dr. Angela Moe on "Separation, visitation, reunification: Michigan child welfare reform and its implications for siblings." Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, Volume XLII, Number 4. (2015).

Alpha Kappa Delta, The International Sociology Honor Society, at WMU has been busy this year. Under the leadership of Dr. Chien-Juh Gu, the students invited middle school students from local schools to come to WMU and learn exactly what the discipline of Sociology is all about. See the pictures below.





## Faculty Honored

### Dr. Chien-Juh Gu

Received a Faculty Achievement Award in Research and Creative Activity from the College of Arts and Sciences.

### Dr. Whitney DeCamp

Received a Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching from the College of Arts and Sciences. DeCamp also received an Innovative Teaching Award from Extended University Programs.



## Meeting up with Alumni!



Lucas Patten (2009) & Dr. Ron Kramer

Dr. Ron Kramer and his wife Jane headed down to Dallas to watch the WMU Broncos play in the Cotton Bowl. While visiting Dallas they wandered over to the Dealey Plaza, the site of John F. Kennedy's Assassination. While Dr. Kramer was studiously reading a plaque on the grassy knoll overlooking where the assassination took place, he noticed a young man next to him also studiously reading the plaque. When Dr. Kramer looked up, so did the young man. It was **Lucas Patten, our Department Presidential Scholar from 2009!**

### Another alumni update...

**From Dr. Amani Michael Awwad, (PhD, 1995)** Associate Professor of Sociology, SUNY Canton (awwada@canton.edu)

"My most recent accomplishment was an article that was published and presented at the Annual Meeting for the ASA and SSSP in San Francisco:

Awwad, Amani (2016). "The U.S. Patriot Act and Civil Liberty: The Culture of Fear and Mass Media as Agents of Social Control". *American International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(3),54-63.

Another accomplishment to highlight since graduation is that I chaired the Social Sciences department at SUNY Canton from Fall 2008 through Spring 2014."



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