

Sociology Graduate Student Newsletter Fall 2013

SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
CSUDH

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Newsletter prepared
by Katy M. Pinto

Welcome Letter from Graduate Coordinator

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a good and productive summer break. Graduation last Spring was so exciting! I've placed some of the graduation photos in this newsletter. I hope these pictures remind you that you have something to look forward too. It might be early to start thinking of graduation, but we have students that are finishing up every semester (Fall and Spring), so it is never too soon to start thinking about graduation. You should always have the larger goal of graduation in mind to help you get through any tough times you might face this year. Yes, we are just starting, but I know the workload sometimes gets overwhelming and studying for exams or writing thesis projects are not always fun, but just keep your eye on the prize...graduation!

This semester we welcome 16 new graduate students into the program. Please keep an eye out for them and welcome them into our department.

**Have a great end of the semester and great summer. Hope to see you soon! —
Dr. Pinto**



Faculty Spotlight

This year we welcome Dr. Jeb Middlebrook to the department. I asked Dr. Middlebrook to answer some questions about his research interest and his experiences in graduate school. Here's what he has to say:

1) For our newest students, can you tell us about your academic background and your current research interests?

I earned a Ph.D. and M.A. (2011, 2007) in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. (2003) in Ethnic Studies (Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major) from the University of Minnesota. At CSUDH, I teach "Criminology," "Deviant Behavior," "Social Movements," "Sociology of Hip-Hop," and "Introduction to Sociology," among other courses. My research and teaching interests include: race and ethnicity, prison, community organizing, and music; and I approach these topics through the frameworks of intersectionality (connections among race, class, gender, and sexuality), transnationalism (flows and movements across borders), and interdisciplinarity (research and teaching across disciplinary boundaries).

2) What can you tell us about your decision to pursue a PhD?

My decision to pursue a Ph.D. was motivated by the many sides of myself: academic, artist, activist. I wanted a career that would allow me the time and space to bring together these seemingly separate parts of my life in powerful and meaningful ways. Studying and practicing the connections among academics, art, and activism as a graduate student, and now as a university professor, is an amazing privilege and one that I hope to mobilize to create such opportunities for others to present their full selves to the world.

3) What do you enjoy the most about teaching?

I most enjoy teaching students how to formulate their own research questions and to collect and analyze data to sufficiently answer questions they are asking about the world. In other words, I enjoy helping to produce a new generation of scholars!

4) What advice do you have for our current graduate students? Do you have a favorite survival strategy to share?

Ask questions, in class and in your research, that you really want to know the answer to. In this way, make graduate school work for you. An academic mentor once said to me, ask questions that "bite into your existence." This was my survival strategy - to always ask questions that mattered to me. That's what kept me reading, writing, and redrafting; the drive to want to know the answer to questions that really were very personal, but at the same time had relevance to the larger world. Ask yourself and those around you the hard questions, and school (and life) will become very exciting.



Welcome Dr. Middlebrook!



Graduation Deadlines:

APPLYING FOR GRADUATION:

Each prospective graduate must file for graduation.

The Application form should be taken to the Cashier's Office with the \$35.00 payment fee, during the following period.

You must file the application

If you anticipate graduation: no later than:

Late Apps Due:

Fall semester July 1st—September 15th

Spring semester October 1st—December 20th

Summer session February 1st—April 15th



Fall GWE Deadlines:

GWE Testing Dates Test Date	Registration Opens	Registration Closes
Saturday, September 21, 2013	Monday, August 12, 2013	Friday, September, 13, 2013
Saturday, November 16, 2013	Monday, October 7, 2013	Friday, November 8, 2013



Thesis Deadlines:

Date	Graduation
November 1	For Fall Graduation
April 1	For Spring Graduation
June 10	For Summer Graduation

Career Outlook



Fall Job & Internship Fair

Wednesday, Oct 23, 11AM-3 PM
(Loker Student Union)

Resume Clinic

Thursday, Oct 17, 1-4 PM
(Loker Student Union)

Graduate School Fair

Wednesday, Sept 25, 10AM-2PM
(LSU Walkway)

Get “Linked In”

Wednesday, November 13, 5-6:30 PM
(Welch Hall, Rm. D360)

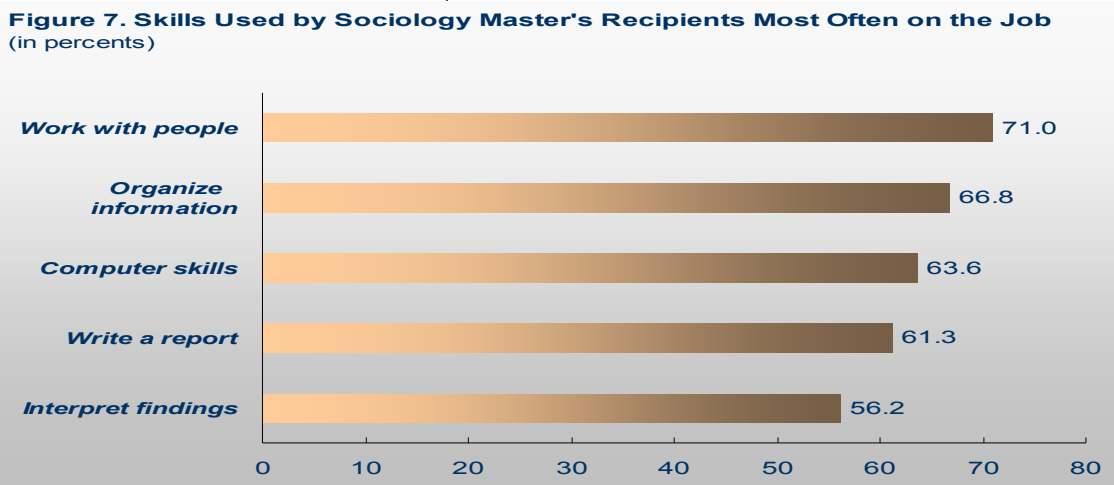
Upcoming Conferences:

PSA: March 27-30, 2014—Portland, Oregon (proposals due Oct 15, 2013)

ASA: August 16-19, 2014—San Francisco, CA (proposals due Jan 2014)

**CSA: November 8-9, 2014 at the Doubletree in
the Berkeley Marina (proposals may still be considered)**

How can I utilize my Skills?:



Source: ASA Research Development Department, *What Can I Do With a Master's Degree in Sociology?* 2009

Want to Get Involved?

The Sociology Club:

The mission of the Sociology Club is to provide opportunities for students to achieve high academic expectations by providing mentorship, networking, and community service.

The Sociology Club helps students build and strengthen their social networks between students, faculty, and communities.

Similar to the Sociology Program, the Sociology Club is guided by the philosophy of “Service to Community” which means a commitment to assist communities in need through volunteerism and community organizing. The Sociology Club assists in developing students organizational and leadership skills in order to become great role models and leaders. The Sociology Club has provided community services to local non-profit organizations that work with at risk youth and low income families.

In addition, students are mentored by providing information required to be successful in their field of interests and career objectives, such as graduate school.

The Sociology Club helps to develop students critical analysis of literature, current events, and issues of interest in which all persons ideologies and beliefs are respected.

We are always accepting new members!! contact us at: CSUDHSociologyClub@gmail.com

Alpha Kappa Delta 2013-2014

**AKD accepts applications once in the Spring
Generally around March.**

Qualifications:

- 1) Junior, Senior, Graduate Standing**
- 2) Major or Minor in Sociology**
- 3) Completion of 10 or more Sociology Units
with a GPA of 3.0 or better.**
- 4) Overall GPA of 3.3 or better.**

Alumni Spotlight: Where are they now?

Marilyn Villatoro

1) Could you tell us about how you decided to earn your MA in sociology at CSUDH?

While studying towards my BA degree in sociology, I found every sociology class interesting. I was able to relate to the topics discussed in class and every sociology class, concept, and theory helped me to understand the world and people around me better. My professors at CSUDH noticed my interest in sociology and suggested me to achieve more than just a BA degree. In addition, they informed me that with an MA in sociology I would be more marketable in the job market. As a result, I decided to earn an MA in sociology.



2) How many years were you in the program? What was your emphasis? Did you work with one faculty member or several?

I was in the MA program for a year and emphasized in general sociology. Throughout my education in CSUDH, I worked with almost all the professors in the sociology department. Many of them took their time to tutor and/or mentor me on a one-on-one basis.

3) Tell us about what you are doing now? How long have you been in your current place of employment?

I am currently working at a community college as a sociology professor. I have been teaching for a year and a half now. Also, I got hired early this year as a mentor coordinator at a prisoner re-entry program, helping ex-offenders integrate back into society after being released from jail or prison.

4) What advice do you have for current graduate students in terms of surviving the graduate program?

My best advice that I have for current graduate students in terms of surviving the graduate program is to communicate with professors all the time. Let them know about your struggles, confusions, and interest in the program. All this information is useful so professors can guide you in the right direction and provide you with the help that you need. Also, keep in mind that you have a personal life besides school and it is important to reward yourself when you achieve or complete something as a form of motivation.

Alumni Spotlight: Where are they now?

Alberto Pimentel

1) Could you tell us about how you decided to earn your MA in sociology at CSUDH?

I had just completed my MS in Public Administration at Cal State Long Beach and I wanted to continue my education and earn a degree that would allow me to teach at a community college and Cal State University. I explored a number of options and decided to pursue my MA in Sociology because I had earned my BA in Sociology at Cal State Los Angeles and I remembered that I really enjoyed the classes and I felt that the MA in Sociology would compliment my MS in Public Administration. My decision to pursue my MA in Sociology at Cal State Dominguez Hills was rather simple because I wanted to attend a university where the professors had a genuine desire to teach and a personal investment in my education. I also felt that the diversity (socio-economic, ethnic and gender) at Cal State Dominguez Hills would further enhance my overall learning experience.

2) Tell us about what you are doing now? How long have you been in your current place of employment?

I recently resigned from my position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas because I have a 6 month old son who lives in Los Angeles with my girlfriend and to serve as the Interim Director of Admissions at Don Bosco Technical Institute aka Bosco Tech, an all-male, pre-engineering Catholic high school in Rosemead, CA. In addition to the Director of Admissions position, I also accepted two adjunct faculty positions, one at Los Angeles Harbor College and the other at the College of Southern Nevada. I am teaching Human Sexuality (Sociology Course) and Introduction to Sociology. I have been in my current position for less than 1 month. My goal within the next year is to join a Sociology department at a Cal State University, preferably my alma mater, Cal State Dominguez Hills.

3)What advice do you have for current graduate students in terms of getting a job after graduation?

The job market is scarce and finding a job is challenging. Pursue your passion and put your Sociology degree to work. Volunteer or accept part-time positions at non-profit organizations to enhance your resume. Highlight your strengths, you have been taught how to be a researcher and have a very unique way of observing the world. Employers are looking for employees that can do more than just develop or analyze theories, therefore promote yourself in a way that illustrates that you can work in a diverse and challenging environment and can effectively communicate ideas with others.





Sociology Department Faculty

Katy M. Pinto, Ph.D. (Graduate Program Coordinator)

Kara Dellacioppa, Ph.D. (Department Chair)

Fumiko Hosokawa, Ph.D.

Jeb Middlebrook, Ph.D.

Matt Mutchler, Ph.D. (Director UCRC)

Jose Prado, Ph.D.

Sohaila Shakib, Ph.D.

La Tanya Skiffer, Ph.D. (on sabbatical 2013-2014)