

Meet Our Speakers *(in order of appearance)*

Friday, March 4, 2016



Luis Zayas is Dean of the School of Social Work at University of Texas at Austin. His social work career spans 35 years, and he has held faculty appointments in such institutions as Washington University, Fordham University, Columbia University, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Though he is originally from Puerto Rico, he attained his education in New York City, where he directed a therapeutic nursery in the South Bronx where he also supervised clinical staff. While extending his focus to research, teaching, and administration, he has remained an active practitioner throughout, more recently providing pro bono services to community agencies. He is presently focusing on the plight of citizen-children whose parents are being

deported. Through funding by the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, he is examining the effects of deportation on the psychosocial functioning of U.S.-born citizen-children of undocumented Mexican immigrants. As a practitioner, he is involved also in evaluating citizen-children and testifying in immigration courts on behalf of citizen-children and their families. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation; National Institute of Mental Health; Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and other public and private sources.



Wendy D. Manning is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. She currently serves as Director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research and Co-Director for the National Center for Family & Marriage Research. She is a family demographer, and her research examines how family members define and understand their obligations to each other in an era of increasingly diverse and complex family relationships. She led the research for the ASA Amicus Brief filed to the U.S. Supreme Court in same-sex marriage cases. She has examined the meaning of cohabitation with her work on the measurement of cohabitation, fertility in cohabiting unions, the stability of cohabiting unions, transitions to marriage, and implications of cohabitation for

adult and child well-being. Her work has focused on adolescent sexual decision-making as well as the patterning and quality of young adult relationships.



Marcia Carlson is a professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her recent work is focused on union formation, fertility, parenting and child wellbeing, particularly among unmarried-parent families. Given the rising fraction of births that occur outside of marriage—and the limited information about such parents and children over time, her research sheds light on the new (and often complicated) family circumstances within this growing demographic group. For example, a recent paper (with Frank Furstenberg) points to the high prevalence of 'multi-partnered fertility' among unmarried parents, which has implications for population research and for public policies intended to serve low-income families.



Kelly Raley is Christine and Stanley E. Adams, Jr. Centennial Professor of Liberal Arts in the Department of Sociology and Faculty Research Associate in Population Research Center at University of Texas at Austin. She is also editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Her research investigates family trends, the social determinants of family formation, and the impact of family change on social stratification. As part of a larger agenda examining the economic, social, and cultural contributors to marriage disparities in the United States, she has recently completed a project investigating the influence of occupational characteristics on the transition into marriage in early adulthood. Her work addresses racial and ethnic differences in marriage and cohabitation, as well as educational variation in family formation.



Zhenchao Qian is a professor of Sociology and research associate of Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University. His research areas include social demography, stratification, and inequality. More specifically, he studies “who marries whom” and “who lives with whom,” their patterns, trends, and consequences. He explores who are available in marriage markets and how men and women pair up to form marital and cohabiting unions in terms of age, education, race & ethnicity, and nativity. Such assortative mating patterns help reveal openness of stratification systems, social distance among social groups, and salience of group boundaries. He also investigates how assortative mating patterns and marital transitions/changes influence individuals’ wellbeing. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Carla Pfeffer earned her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2009. She is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina. Her research is at the intersection of sociological inquiry into contemporary families, genders, sexualities, and bodies considered marginal, as well as social actors’ management of stigma and discrimination. In one area of research, she studies the experiences and perspectives of cisgender (non-transgender) women partners of transgender men. In a second area of research, she examines experiences of fat and size-acceptance advocates, American attitudes toward (and beliefs about) fatness, and their interface with various forms of social inequalities. She holds a joint appointment with Women's and Gender Studies.



Sharon Sassler is Full Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM) at Cornell University, where she is also an affiliate with the Cornell Population Center, and the Center for the Study of Inequality. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from Brown University. Trained as a social demographer, her research examines factors shaping the activities of young adults and their life course transitions into school and work, relationships, and parenthood, and how these transitions vary by gender, race/ethnicity, and social class. Her current research explores the tempo of relationship progression, the processes underlying entrance into cohabiting unions and marriage, and the meanings cohabitators assign to their unions. She also examines outcomes associated with becoming an unmarried mother for mothers and their offspring, and the impact of subsequent entrance into unions (marriage or cohabitation).



Liana Sayer is Director of the Maryland Time Use Laboratory and Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. Her research explores vital questions on when, where, and how time use matters, and for whom, over time and space. Published work shows that determinants of household work and gendered relationship dynamics are mediated by culturally distinct working time regimes and gender ideologies, such that progress toward gender equality is thwarted by the deeply intertwined, mutually reinforcing nature of gendered families and institutions. Her research has been published in *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Social Forces*, and *American Journal of Sociology*. Her current projects reflect new explorations of time use variation within and between social groups.



Daniel Carlson is currently an assistant professor of Sociology at Georgia State University. He is interested in understanding variation across gender, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity in individuals' family circumstances and the consequences of this variation for well-being and inequality. To date this interest has resulted in three research streams: The first stream involves understanding the health consequences of shifts in family formation patterns associated with the second demographic transition; the second explores race/ethnic and socioeconomic differences in family formation experiences and orientations and the consequence of these for well-being and health disparities, and his final stream of research examines the causes and consequences of the gendered division of labor in families and shifts in these domains across cohorts.



Fenaba Addo is an Assistant Professor of Consumer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is also an affiliate with the Center on Financial Security, Center for Demography and Ecology, and Institute for Research on Poverty. Her research examines how economic resources and financial behaviors influence family and household dynamics such as cohabitation, marriage, relationship quality, and health disparities. Her published research appears in *Demography*, *Family Relations*, *The American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *The Review of Black Political Economy*, and *Social Science Research*. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University.



Barbara Risman is currently a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. She is Professor of Sociology at University of Illinois at Chicago and was previously Alumni Distinguished Research Professor and the Founding Director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. She is the author of *Gender Vertigo: American Families in Transition* (Yale, 1998). Her journal articles have been featured in venues such as *American Sociological Review*, *Gender & Society*, and *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. She is currently an editor of the book series, *The Gender Lens*. She is also the President of the Board of Directors of CCF, President of the Southern Sociological Society, and Vice President of the American Sociological Association. She was honored by the American Sociological Association with the 2011 Award for the Public Understanding of Sociology, and in 2005, she was awarded the Katherine Jocher Belle Boone Award from the Southern Sociological Society for lifetime contributions to the study of gender.

Saturday, March 5, 2016



Debra Umberson is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on social factors that influence population health with a particular emphasis on aging and life course change, marital and family ties, and gender and racial variation in health disparities. Her recent publications have focused on marital transitions and body weight; stress and health behavior; gender and health in gay, lesbian, and straight couples; race, social ties, and disadvantage in health; and health policy addressing the link between social ties and health. She has been the recipient of a National Research Service Award and a FIRST Award from the National Institute on Aging. She is also an elected Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

Her current research, supported by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator in Health Policy Research Award and the National Institute on Aging, examines how marital relationships affect health-related behavior and health care, and how those processes vary across gay, lesbian, and heterosexual unions. She is the immediate past editor of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* and Chair-elect of the Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. She is also the recipient of the 2015 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Aging and the Life Course.



Dolores Acevedo-Garcia is Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, and Director of the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. She is Project Director for diversitydata.org and diversitydatakids.org. She is also a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Housing and Families with Children. Her research focuses on the social determinants of racial/ethnic health disparities; the role of social policies in reducing those disparities; and the health and well-being of children with special needs. She served on two national expert panels convened by the Centers for Disease Control, and on the expert panel for the award-winning PBS

documentary series “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?” She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* and of the *Journal of Social Problems*. She also serves on the Social Science Advisory Board of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, and the National Coalition on School Diversity.



Yolanda Chávez Padilla is Professor of Social Work and Women’s Studies at The University of Texas at Austin and Director of the Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice, a center of the Council on Social Work Education. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and currently serves as Vice President of the Society for Social Work and Research. Her research has primarily focused on contributing to knowledge that can advance our understanding of poverty and that will inform the development of effective social welfare policy. Within the broader area of poverty, she investigates racial and ethnic disparities in health and well-being in the United States, particularly among Latino populations. Her research examines the

consequences of poverty for Latino children and families with a focus on health and development in early childhood, the social and economic conditions of Latino children and families living on the US-Mexico border region, and factors associated with socioeconomic disadvantage among Latinos, including immigration. Her social work practice specializations are in community and policy practice, with a particular interest in issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender populations.



Velma McBride Murry is the Lois Autrey Betts Chair in Education and Human Development and Professor, Human and Organizational Development in Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. Her work has focused on the significance of context in studies of African-American families and youth, particularly the impact of racism on family functioning. She also served as principal investigator of The Strong African American Families Program. She received continued support from NIMH to conduct a RCT in Tennessee to determine the efficacy and viability of The Pathways for African American Success Program, as a delivery modality for rural families. She received a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Missouri, Columbia.



Jenifer Bratter is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Rice University. Her research explores the implications of race and racial mixing in the areas of family, identity, and social inequality. Current projects focus on indicators of social well-being such as poverty, residential segregation, and health and the new ways that race is linked to these phenomena. She had been awarded the 2009 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for Career Enhancement to study patterns of residential segregation for mixed-race families. She has recently published works appearing in *Demography*, *Social Forces*, *Family Relations*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, and several upcoming book chapters. She received her Ph.D. in 2001 from the University of Texas at Austin.



Stephanie Coontz is Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families. She is the author of numerous books including: "*A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s*" (Basic Books, 2011), *Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage* (Viking Press, 2005), *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap* (1992, Basic Books, revised edition coming in 2016), and *The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families* (Basic Books, 1997). Her work was cited by Justice Kennedy in the Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality. She is a frequent columnist for the *New York Times* and has testified about her research before the U.S.

House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. A former Woodrow Wilson Fellow, she has also taught at Kobe University in Japan and the University of Hawaii at Hilo. In 2013 she received the Work-Life Legacy Award from the Families and Work Institute. In 2004, she received the Council on Contemporary Families first-ever "Visionary Leadership" Award. In 1995 she accepted the Dale Richmond Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for her "outstanding contributions to the field of child development."



Shawn Fremstad is a Senior Fellow at Center for American Progress. He is also a senior research associate at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a Ford Foundation public voices fellow, and a consultant on policy issues to various national nonprofits. Previously, he was deputy director of welfare reform and income support at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and director of the Bridging the Gaps project at the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. in 1999, he worked as a legal services attorney in Minnesota representing low-income people in legal and legislative matters involving family law, housing, benefits, and other civil issues. As a consultant, he has written reports and conducted research for a number of other national nonprofit organizations. He received his J.D. from the University of Minnesota.



Tama Leventhal is an Associate Professor in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University. She received her doctoral degree in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University's Teachers' College in 1999. She comes to Tufts from Johns Hopkins University where she served as an Associate Research Scientist at the Institute for Policy Studies and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her scholarly work links developmental research with social policy, regarding children, youth, and families, particularly low-income families with children. In particular, she studies the role of neighborhood contexts in the lives of children, youth, and families.



Rob Crosnoe is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. His main research area is the life course and human development; specifically, the connections among children's and adolescents' health, psychosocial development, and educational trajectories and how these connections contribute to population-level inequalities (e.g., race, social class, immigration). He has been a member of the NICHD Early Child Care Research Network, the Collaborative on the Analysis of Pathways from Childhood to Adulthood, and the Institute of Medicine Study on Young Adult Health and Safety. He has won early career awards from the Society for Research on Child Development, the Society for Research on Human Development, and the Children and Youth Section of the American Sociological Association.



Joseph Potter is Professor of Sociology and a Faculty Research Associate at the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. His interests lie in the areas of reproductive health, population and development, and demographic estimation. Since the Fall of 2011, he has been leading a five-year project – The Texas Policy Evaluation Project (TxPEP) – to evaluate the impact of legislation enacted by the Texas Legislature in 2011 and 2013 affecting both funding for family planning and access to abortion care. Earlier, he was Principal Investigator of the Border Contraceptive Access Study (BCAS), an NICHD funded project on oral contraceptive use along the United States-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas.



Michelle Janning is Chair of the CCF Board of Directors, and Professor of Sociology at Whitman College. Her research focuses on the intersections of material culture and spaces with family relations, including work on divorce, work and family boundaries, gender roles, and romantic communication. She is the author or co-author of articles and chapters primarily on the intersections of families and material and popular culture, including "Love Letters Lost? Gender and the Preservation of Digital and Paper Communication from Romantic Relationships" in *Family Communication in an Age of Digital and Social Media* (edited by Carol J. Bruess), "The Stuff at Mom's House and the Stuff at Dad's House: The Material Consumption of Divorce for Adolescents" in *Childhood and Consumer Culture*, and others. She has also guest edited an issue of the *Journal of Family Issues*. In addition to her work on these topics, she also researches gender and sport, interpersonal relationships among college students, and community-based research on families, children, and early learning.