

DECEMBER 2024

ASA FAMILY SECTION NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: LIANA SAYER



What and who are family? Who decides? And how do the benefits and costs of family vary by gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, and social class? These have been and continue to be central themes of family sociology. These were also prominent themes of the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election that mined long-standing divisions and conflicts in our society. Marriage and gendered family roles are likely to remain a source of political polarization and a central focus of social policy over the next 4 years. Family sociologists have contributed to an impressive body of research documenting the

factors linked with greater diversity of family forms and investigating the complex associations of women's economic independence with the quality and stability of relationships, and women's, children's, and men's well-being.

Sociological research on families will be an integral component of understanding and addressing this political and social moment. Family Sociologists, particularly those who study the myriad ways families are implicated in (White, Christian, Patriarchal) American identity and culture, will no doubt face heightened public scrutiny, social media outrage, and questions about the viability of the sociological enterprise within the academy. We all have a stake in these developments and working to minimize negative consequences for our colleagues, departments, and discipline. The Family Section will be steadfast promoting relevant and uncompromising research that advances our understanding of the good and the bad of diverse families.

Q: We are delighted to welcome you as the new ASA Family Section Chair. To start, could you give us a quick introduction? Who are you, where are you, and what do you study?

I am Chair and Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland and I just completed a five year term as editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family*. My research agenda centers on the cross-national and historical determinants, patterns, and consequences of gendered time use.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: LIANA SAYER

A major contribution of my work is documenting substantial variation in levels of and gender gaps in women's and men's time use across institutional and cultural contexts, despite similarity in second demographic trends. I conceptualize time use as a behavioral manifestation of gender and class-differentiated practices that produce differential endowments of cultural knowledge, cognitive capacities, social resources, time consciousness and health behaviors. My current research highlights how the story of gender convergence in time use masks substantial variation in time inequality regimes within and between gender, class, and racial-ethnic groups and across the life course.

Q: What inspired you to become a family sociologist?

I was attracted to Sociology because of my interest in understanding and reducing inequality. I became a family sociologist as I learned how integral families were in creating and recreating everyday inequalities. I wanted to understand family as an institution and a cultural system of meaning, an element of the scaffolding of institutionalized and hierarchical social practices. My dissertation advisor, Suzanne Bianchi, and the outstanding family demography faculty at the University of Maryland, also inspired me. Suzanne supported and challenged me during graduate school and beyond and showed me it was possible to have a full professional and personal life – and how to become the full package of a good mentor, teacher, and scholar.

Q: Give us some reading recommendations! What are some articles or texts that you've found particularly impactful or inspiring?

I have so many favorites! I read Stephanie Coontz's book, *The Way We Never Were*, (Coontz, 1992), while I was working as a researcher at the Business and Professional Women's Foundation in DC and it helped me make sense of the disconnect I'd noticed between the lived realities of families and the discourse about the "best" type of family. It also motivated me to explore returning to graduate school in Sociology.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: LIANA SAYER

Other influences include Heidi Hartmann's article on family, gender inequality, and housework (Hartmann, 1981), Valerie Oppenheimer's article arguing dual earner marriages offered economic and social benefits (Oppenheimer, 1994), work by Paula England and Nancy Folbre (England & Budig, 1998; England & Folbre, 1999; England & Kilbourne, 1990; Folbre, 2001, 2014), Marjorie DeVault's *Feeding the Family* (DeVault, 1991), Powell, Bolzendahl, Geist, and Carr's *Counted Out* and Harriett Presser's work (Presser, 1995, 1997, 2003). More recently, articles by Bethany Letiecq on the structural aspects of marriage fundamentalism and family inequality (Letiecq, 2024), and Regina Baker & Heather O'Connell and Deadric Williams's work (Baker & O'Connell, 2022; Williams, 2023) on structural racism and family inequality have caused reflection and rethinking of my taken-for-granted ways of conceptualizing and analyzing inequality.

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- Williams, D. T. (2023). Racism and the mechanisms maintaining racial stratification in Black families. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 15(2), 206-218. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12511>

AWARD NOMINATIONS

**PLEASE NOMINATE YOURSELF OR YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR OUR
SECTION AWARDS!**

Distinguished Career Award

This award recognizes the collective body of a person's work as it relates to the sociology of the family (not a single publication). Award winners may be selected on the basis of distinguished contributions to either research or service. Service to the field includes developments (such as data sets or analytic techniques) that have had a substantial impact on family research.

Please send the nominee's CV to Christina Cross, Chair, (crossc@fas.harvard.edu) by **March 10, 2025**. A short letter of nomination (no longer than one page) is optional but encouraged.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

William J. Goode Book Award

This award is for a book on the family published in 2023 or 2024. The committee will consider only books nominated by section members and we encourage self-nominations. Textbooks and edited volumes are not eligible.

Please send an email notification of your nomination to Jessica Halliday Hardie, Chair (jh1389@hunter.cuny.edu) no later than **January 13, 2025** and request the mailing addresses for the members of committee. Arrange for the publisher to send copies of the books directly to the committee chair and all members (6 copies total).

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Article of the Year Award

This award recognizes a journal article that has made a significant contribution to the field of family sociology. The award committee will accept nominations for articles published in 2022, 2023, or 2024. Nominations may be made by the author or others.

To nominate, please send an electronic copy of the article to the chair of the award committee, Kate Choi, Chair (kate.choi@uwo.ca). The deadline for nominations is **March 10, 2025**.

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Graduate Students are invited to submit an article-length paper on the family. The paper should represent a finished product rather than a proposal for future work. The submission can be based on a course paper, a recently published journal article, a manuscript under review at a journal, or a conference presentation. Co-authored papers are acceptable if all authors are students, although the prize will be shared. The paper must have been written when the author was enrolled in a graduate program. The paper may not exceed 30 pages or 11,000 words.

Please send an electronic copy of the paper to Liana Sayer, Chair (lsayer@umd.edu) by **March 10, 2025**.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Chang, A. S. (2024). Masculinity on the margins: Boundary work among immobile fathers in Indonesia's transnational families. *Social Forces*, 102(3), 1048-1067.

Delgado, V. (2024). Stratified private safety nets: How legal status shapes financial contributions by immigrant-origin young adults. *Social Problems*.

Eilers, M. A. (2024). Attitudes and behavior feedback loops for young women's premarital sex. *Socius*, 10.

Galli, C., & Garip, F. (2024). Bringing children to the center of migration theory. *International Migration Review*.

Gibby, A. L. , Thomas, K. J., & Ware Metcalf, M. (2024). Racial disparities in socioeconomic status among adoptive parents. *Journal of Family Issues*.

Gillis, A., & van Stee, E. G. (2024). The pact: How a seemingly race-neutral behavioral policy reproduced racial inequality at a predominantly white liberal arts college. *Socius*, 10.

Hu, O. Y. (2024). Let's talk about race, baby: How interracial/-ethnic relationships influence East Asian women's understandings of race and racism. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Jaspers, E., Mazrekaj, D., & Machado, W. (2024). Doing gender: Partners' gender and labor market behavior. *American Sociological Review*.

Johnson, K., & Ebert, K. (2024). 'A future for white children': Examining family ideologies of white extremist groups at the intersection of race and gender. *Social Currents*.

Johnson, K. (2024). Rejecting multiracial stereotypes: Parental socialization practices at the intersection of race and gender. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

Articles, cont.

Kaufman, G., Meng, S., Zhou, K., & Compton, D. L. (2024). For the children: Attitudes toward marriage and divorce in the United States. *The Sociological Quarterly*.

Lim, S. (2024). The necessary paradigm shift for South Korea's ultra-low fertility. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*.

Mazrekaj, D., Palmaccio, S., & De Witte, K. (2024). Research on children with LGBTQ parents: Challenges and a way forward. In *Research handbook on the sociology of gender* (pp. 239-252). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Books

Hansen, K. V., & Monroe, N. (2024). *Working-class kids and visionary educators in a multiracial high school: A story of belonging*. Lexington Books.

Janning, M. (2024). *Investing in enchantment: Memory, market, and the family vacation home*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Kurz, D. (2024). *Letting go: Parenting teens and young adults in a time of uncertainty*. Oxford University Press.

Ocobock, A. (2024). *Marriage material: How an enduring institution is changing same-sex relationships*. University of Chicago Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Participants—Navigating Change in Intergenerational Family Relationships Study

This project examines how families navigate changing dynamics around sexual orientation across generations. Participation in this study will consist of a 2-hour interview that will take place virtually via Teams. You and each of your family members will each receive \$100 for participating. Fill out a brief [online Screening Form](#) to see if you qualify for participation in this research

Eligibility

- Interviews with three family members; grandparent, parent and child
- Of these family members one must be GLBQ+ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer)
- Must have known about family member's sexual orientation for at least two years
- All members must be 18 years or older

Contact Our Team at [our website](#) or FamilyResearch@MSUDenver.edu

Research Conducted by Dr. K Scherrer, Metropolitan State University of Denver and Dr. Emily Kazyak, University of Nebraska Lincoln

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

Call for Applications—Population and Social Data Science Summer Incubator Program: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)

Population and Social Data Science Summer Incubator Program
The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) is inviting applications from qualified and highly-motivated students for a Summer Research Visit.

The goal of the Population and Social Data Science Summer Incubator Program is to enable discovery by bringing together data scientists and population scientists to work on focused, intensive and collaborative projects of broad societal relevance.

More information can be found [here](#).

Call for Signatures—form a new ASA section of Creative Sociology

Dr. Ingrid E. Castro (former Chair of the Children and Youth section) is working to form a new section of the American Sociological Association: Creative Sociology! To view a short description and sign the petition to form the new ASA section of Creative Sociology, click [here](#)

Call for Papers: Special Issue—Feminist Metascience, Feminist Open Science? Pain Points and Possibilities

This special issue explores the relationship between feminism, metascience, and open science, seemingly disparate areas of inquiry of contemporary significance. Over the past four decades the sociology of gender emerged as a prominent scholarly subfield. Sex and Gender is the largest American Sociological Association subsection; Gender & Society consistently tops the ranks in both sociology and women's studies; and there is widespread recognition among sociologists that gender is a multi-level system of differentiation embedded in interactions, organizations, institutions, and societies. Simultaneously, it has become increasingly clear that social research is flawed. High-profile cases of scientific misconduct abound, established findings have proven difficult to replicate, and incongruous conclusions across publications complicate rather than clarify the literature. In response, a new field of inquiry known as metascience has flourished alongside calls for open science. Metascience entails the use of various research methodologies to study research itself, whereas open science concerns transparency across all aspects of the research process.

These two movements developed relatively independent of one another with different purposes in mind. For example, the goals of meta-and open science are instrumental; the goals of feminist scholarship are emancipatory. And, metascience has historically relied on positivistic methods; feminist epistemologists have challenged such methods as androcentric, sexist, Eurocentric, racist, and colonial. Nevertheless, there are also synergies between the two. Both are self-reflexive, challenge ideological bias, and embrace community, collegiality, collaboration, and knowledge equity. This special issue will be a forum for feminist scholars to explore these relationships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

For example:

- Why hasn't a feminist metascience or feminist open science emerged?
- Why hasn't metascience recognized or incorporated feminist critiques of science?
- What can theories of gender and intersectionality bring to metascience and/or open science practices? And, what might such a perspective look like? (Examples of such approaches welcome.)
- What is the relationship between transparency and oppression?
- In what ways are social justice movements aligned with the open science movement? In what ways are they contradictory?
- How might intersectional perspectives inform open science praxis to both improve research quality and challenge systemic inequalities? (Examples welcome.)
- And, how might metascientific research, broadly defined, be used to generate new theoretical insights and empirical knowledge regarding gender? (Examples welcome.)

Topics to be considered include, but are not limited to: the impact of open science on gender justice; bias and discrimination in research participation, academia, research, and publishing; experiences of marginalized groups in social science; the role of metascience in shaping inclusive research practices; feminist epistemologies including Black feminisms, Latinx feminisms, and feminisms of the global South; feminist methodology; gender and academic fraud and/or error; gender and participation in open science practices like data-sharing; reproducibility projects as gendered; research transparency as gendered; feminist research ethics; gendered public engagement; peer review; the evaluation of scientific impact; and publishing and publication bias. We welcome papers that employ quantitative and qualitative methods and perspectives, draw attention to culturally and politically distinctive struggles; incorporate power structures such as colonialisms, nationalisms, religion, ethnicity, and globalization in their analyses; or otherwise challenge hegemonic discourses and epistemologies.

All papers must make both a theoretical and empirical contribution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

Completed manuscripts, due February 1, 2025, should be submitted online to Your paragraph text and should specify in the cover letter that the paper is to be considered for the special issue.

Although it is not required, potential authors are encouraged to contact either of the guest editors with their ideas before submitting: Christin L. Munsch (christin.munsch@uconn.edu) or Daisy Verduzco Reyes (daisy.reyes@ucmerced.edu).

Please see the call [here](#).

What The Golden Bachelor Gets Right About Older Adult Dating

By Lauren Harris

Reprinted with permission from the [Contexts blog](#)

I study the dating experiences of single older adults. In recent months, this has meant that every person I know has reached out to tell me about this hot new show on ABC, [The Golden Bachelor](#). The latest spin-off in The Bachelor franchise, The Golden Bachelor features Gerry, a 72-year-old widower and grandfather looking for the (second) love of his life. As an avid viewer of reality shows, I was very excited for the series to begin. But as a scholar researching older adult dating, I was also a bit nervous. Looking for love in later life is a unique experience. Would the show get it right?

There has been no shortage of criticism directed toward The Golden Bachelor, including concerns about the show's [lack of diversity and reliance on stereotypes](#). Although I largely agree with these critiques, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the show presents a pretty accurate depiction of how family relationships—especially the care many older adults provide for their children and grandchildren—shape older adult dating.

In my recent study based on 100 interviews with single older adults, I found that family caregiving responsibilities and relationships could pose a significant barrier to older adult repartnering, particularly among older women. I found that men in my study were typically uninterested in dating women who provided care for their families (e.g., babysitting grandchildren), as these men assumed women would put their children and grandchildren first. And indeed, The Golden Bachelor highlights the tensions that often emerge between older women's family responsibilities and their romantic prospects.

SPECIAL FEATURE, CONT.

Two women, Marina and Joan, chose family caregiving responsibilities over Gerry, forgoing the possibility of a lasting relationship with him. First, Marina left the show very early, and it was later revealed that she left to attend to a family matter. Then, in the middle of episode four, Joan tearfully decided to leave the show to support her daughter, who had recently given birth. Joan stated that, “once you’re a mom, you’re always a mom,” and told Gerry she needed to go home, “to be a mom.” Gerry was disappointed she chose to leave, but he supported her decision. In contrast, when faced with a similar choice, Sandra chose to prioritize her prospects with Gerry over her role as a mother, missing her daughter’s wedding in order to be on the show—and was praised by Gerry for doing so. Marina, Joan, and Sandra’s experiences illustrate the caregiving role many older women play and that these responsibilities can affect opportunities for repartnering in later life.

In a similar vein, recent episodes of *The Golden Bachelor* mirror my research finding that geographical proximity to family is a major constraint in older adult dating. Many of my respondents were seeking a geographically close partner because they did not want to move away from family. *The Golden Bachelor* began to address this in episode six, when Gerry met the families of the final three women. When Gerry met with Theresa’s family, her daughter called attention to the fact that Theresa was “here every day, pretty much. So, we see her a lot. She’s part of our lives. We are a very close-knit family.” Theresa’s daughter went on to say that “it would be challenging” if her mother were to relocate to be with Gerry. Faith expressed similar concerns about relocating, stating, “I feel such a pull to be close to my sons. I want to make sure my kids know that at any time they need me, that I’m going to be there for them.” Gerry did not offer to relocate (he has adult children and grandchildren of his own), and only stated, “I’m not sure how we’re going to reconcile that.” Tellingly, he did not give Faith a rose. In a later episode, he asked Leslie, “How do you think our life would look with respect to how we would live and where we would live?”

She did not have a clear response but was sure they could “figure it out.” “You said the magic words,” Gerry responded, “We can figure it out.”

At the heart of these discussions is an issue most single young adults do not face—will older adults move away from their children and grandchildren for a partner? Family responsibilities and attachments can make geographic proximity a necessity, especially among older women who are more likely to perform family caregiving. In my research, as in *The Golden Bachelor*, we see single older adults grapple with finding love while also keeping close and rewarding relationships with their families.

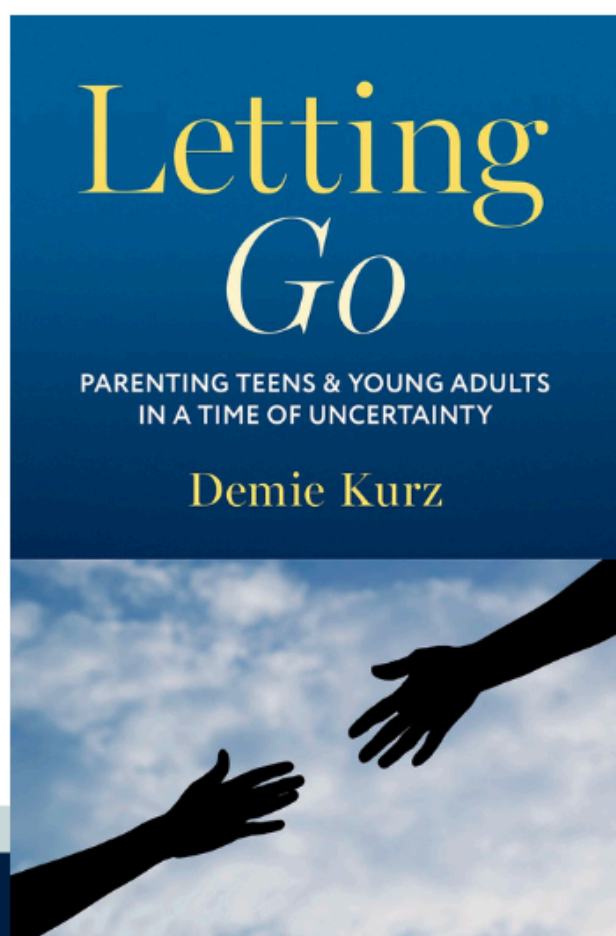
What my research shows—and what *The Golden Bachelor* begins to illustrate, as well—is the central role families continue to play in older adult partnering. Historically, parents were influential in their children’s partner selection. For older adults today, the direction of influence is reversed: both directly and indirectly, children and grandchildren influence older adults’ partnering trajectories. Single older adults are not an island on the dating market (a *Love Island*, one might say—oh wait, that’s a different dating show). Rather, they are embedded in family networks that often rely on their caregiving and are affected by their romantic decisions.

Author Bio

Lauren Harris is in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of New Hampshire. She studies family, gender, and aging.

Letting Go

Parenting Teens and Young Adults in a Time of Uncertainty



Adolescence is widely viewed as the most difficult stage of parenting. Yet despite its importance, we have a limited grasp of what it actually takes to help teens through adolescence. In *Letting Go*, Demie Kurz offers a deeper understanding of the demanding work of parenting teens and sheds new light on what it takes to produce a "successful child." Based on numerous interviews with a diverse group of mothers, Kurz details the negotiations with teens and young adults as well over control, trust, and letting go to offer an invaluable portrayal of the of the real dilemmas contemporary parents face day-to-day. At a time when the transition to adulthood has become longer and more challenging, *Letting Go* offers a nuanced, candid portrait of the deeply emotional dynamics involved in raising adolescents and young adults, and the ways social policy can play a key role in helping young people succeed.

Features

- Presents a much-needed understanding of parenting at the critical stages of adolescence and young adulthood
- Highlights the critical task of "letting go" and giving teens and young adults more power and freedom to take more responsibility for their lives

“In this gem of a book, Kurz explores the critical challenges parents face in the process of ‘letting go’ of children entering adulthood.”

MARGARET NELSON,
AUTHOR, "PARENTING OUT OF CONTROL"

THE AUTHOR: Demie Kurz

Research Affiliate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania



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“Karen Hansen brings her unique perspective as both a graduate and a sociologist, to enable us to understand the challenges and powerful interactions among students and faculty. This is a book worth reading.”

— **Marya R. Levenson, Harry S. Levitan** Emerita Director of the Education Program, Brandeis University

“This work is a model of significant and interesting writing and research about how public schools work. The authors’ writing style is a marvel of storytelling combined with sophisticated social and institutional analysis. Hansen and Monroe literally bring the school to life. This book confirms the importance of high school as a central feature of coming of age in the United States.”

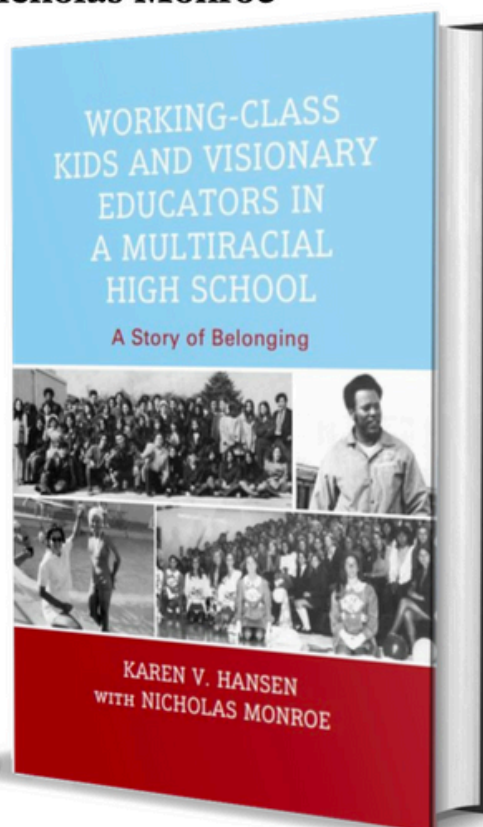
— **John R. Thelin**, University of Kentucky

“This book gives us a uniquely intimate portrait of a California high school that had a magical impact on its diverse working-class students during the turbulent 1970s. [...] culminating in a list of ten school-effectiveness factors that is as helpful as any I’ve seen.”

— **Kim Marshall**, former principal of Mather Elementary School and editor of *The Marshall Memo*

“Easy to read and deeply interesting, this is an inspirational story of a high school which helped students succeed against the odds.”

— **Annette Lareau**, Author of *Unequal Childhoods*



ABOUT THE BOOK

In the 1960s and 1970s—when many communities resisted school integration and schools held low expectations for working-class kids and constricted teachers’ autonomy—educators and students at this public high school in California created a cohesive community that gave students a powerful sense of belonging. In this book, the story of Sunnyvale High School is told by the students and educators who shaped it and made it thrive. They attest to the lifelong impact of their shared experience

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Karen V. Hansen is Victor and Gwendolyn Beinfeld Professor of Sociology, emerita, at Brandeis University. **Nicholas Monroe** holds a PhD in sociology and works at Gartner.

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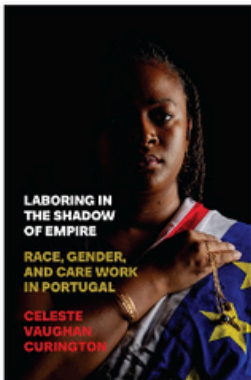
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Paperback, \$39.95
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Laboring in the Shadow of Empire

Race, Gender, and Care Work in Portugal

Celeste Vaughan Curington

DESCRIPTION

Laboring in the Shadow of Empire: Race, Gender, and Care Work in Portugal examines the everyday lives of an African-descendant care service workforce that labors in an ostensibly “anti-racial” Europe and against the backdrop of the Portuguese colonial empire. While much of the literature on global care work has focused on Asian and Latine migrant care workers, there is comparatively less research that explicitly examines African care workers and their migration histories to Europe. Sociologist Celeste Vaughan Curington focuses on Portugal—a European setting with comparatively liberal policies around family settlement and naturalization for migrants. In this setting, rapid urbanization in the late twentieth century, along with a national push to reconcile work and family, has shaped the growth of paid home care and cleaning service industries. Many researchers focus on informal work settings, where immigrant rights are restricted and many workers are undocumented or without permanent residence status. Curington instead examines workers who have accessed citizenship or permanent residence status and also explores African women’s experiences laboring in care and service industries in the formal market, revealing how deeply colonial and intersectional logics of a racialized and international division of reproductive labor in Portugal render these women “hyper-invisible” and “hyper-visible” as “appropriate” workers in Lisbon.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

CELESTE VAUGHAN CURINGTON is an assistant professor of sociology at Boston University. She is the coauthor of *The Dating Divide: Race and Desire in the Era of Online Romance*.

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Navigating Change In Intergenerational Family Relationships Study

Project is Funded by the National Science Foundation. Project number 2319905. This study has been approved by MSU Denver's IRB #2023-139. MSU Denver's Human Subjects Protection Program can be reached at 303-605-5282 or by email at hssp@msudenver.edu.

This project examines **how families navigate** changing dynamics around **sexual orientation** across generations.

Participation in this study will consist of a **2-hour interview** that will take place virtually via Teams. You and each of your family members will each receive **\$100** for participating. Scan the QR code below to fill out a brief online Screening Form to see if you qualify for participation in this research.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Interviews with three family members; grandparent, parent and child
- Of these family members one must be GLBQ+ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer)
- Must have known about family member's sexual orientation for at least two years
- All members must be 18 years or older



Contact Information

NSFFamilyResearch.com

FamilyResearch@MSUDenver.edu

Research Conducted By

Dr. K Scherrer, *Metropolitan State University of Denver*

Dr. Emily Kazyak, *University of Nebraska Lincoln*

Scan for Screening Form



Participate in a Study About Immigration and Relationships!

This study:

We are looking for couples to participate in a research study to better understand how mixed-status couples in the U.S. navigate privacy about immigration and its effects on their relationship.

Interview:

Participants will be asked about their experiences with immigration and their relationship through one-on-one interviews with a researcher from Rutgers University. The interviews will be held on Zoom.

We would love to chat! Please contact us at 909-453-2569 or via email at salvador.guzman@rutgers.edu. Upon study completion, you will be compensated with a \$50.00 gift card (Amazon/Walmart) for your participation.

¡Participe en un Estudió Sobre Los Efectos Relacionales de Inmigración!

El Estudio:

Invitamos a parejas que participen en un estudio para mejor comprender como parejas con estatus mixto en los EE. UU. manejan la privacidad sobre la inmigración y sus efectos en su relación.

La Entrevista:

Se le preguntará acerca de sus experiencias migratorias y su relación con su pareja durante en una entrevista con un investigador de la Universidad de Rutgers (Rutgers University). La entrevista será en línea a través de Zoom.

¡Nos encantaría hablar con usted! Puede llamarnos o mandarnos un mensaje por teléfono al 909-453-2569 o por correo electrónico: salvadorguzman@rutgers.edu. Al concluir la entrevista, se le compensará una tarjeta de regalo (\$50.00) de Amazon o Walmart.

NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY



ELENA VAN STEE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



ASHLEY LARSEN GIBBY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY