



Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses

Shinta Hernandez, Editor and Katie Torkashvan, Layout

February 2020

Greetings, Colleagues! I hope the spring semester is off to a wonderful and productive start. We are excited to share with you the enriching activities that the faculty in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice have engaged in this year. I am a proud supporter of the innovation that is happening in and out of our physical and virtual classrooms. Our dedicated faculty and staff embrace the mission of the Department in continuing to enhance their pedagogy, increase relevance in their disciplines, create and strengthen collaborations, and improve their students' experiences and successes.

As social scientists, we constantly remind our students to find their voice and be heard. During a time when the world is changing faster than ever before, our students know they can find a home and an identity in our Department. Our three disciplines provide students with a chance to be empowered in their communities so that they can "be the change [they] want to see in the world" (Mahatma Gandhi). Through our courses, co-curricular activities, outreach events, and conversations with our faculty, students who come through our classrooms are more likely to gain a better understanding that because change is inevitable, they can develop the skills necessary to transform and make a difference in the world.

I challenge all of us to be that change. Happy 2020!

All the best,

Shinta Hernandez, Department Chair

Social Sciences EXPO

The College's second Social Sciences EXPO will be held in April 2020 on all three campuses. These events are designed to showcase the nine social sciences and related degree programs to students who are already interested in or want to learn more about these nine disciplines – anthropology, criminal justice, economics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. Students can also gather information about registration, advising, financial aid, ATPA, z-courses, online courses, and transfer. At each campus EXPO, there will be faculty keynote speakers and student/alumni panelists. Please spread the word to students and colleagues. Flyers and email invitations are forthcoming. SAVE THE DATES!

- April 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in BE 151/152 (Germantown)
- April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Theater Arts Arena (Rockville)
- April 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bliss Commons (Takoma Park/Silver Spring)

Welcome to the Department!

We are excited to welcome the following part time faculty to the Department: **Professor Brittani Walker** (sociology), **Professor Britany Gatewood** (sociology), **Professor Cassandra Jean** (sociology), **Professor Ladan Rahnema** (sociology), **Professor Sitinga Kachipande** (sociology), and **Professor Dirk Parham** (anthropology). The Department looks forward to seeing their contributions to student success!



Thoughts from a QRiD Faculty Fellow and Sociologist

“Be Messy and Learn”

By Dr. Takiko Mori-Saunders

In Fall 2019, I was a part of the QRiD fellowship group. QRiD? Some people may not know what it is. It is *Quantitative Reasoning in the Disciplines*. We were a small but diverse group of six fellows whose disciplines were English, Communication, Mathematics, and Sociology. Our leaders were a political scientist and a biologist.

Quantitative reasoning (or quantitative literacy) is now one of the silent movements in higher education. Just like Writing in the Disciplines, some faculty members in higher education are trying to embed quantitative reasoning in their curriculum or courses. It does not have to be a big assignment or project, but it is better to embed quantitative reasoning in any course from the beginning of our students' higher education experience.

As a social scientist, I always wanted to assign a small research project that involves quantitative data analyses. Yet, I was hesitant. I felt there were too many barriers for students to stumble over.

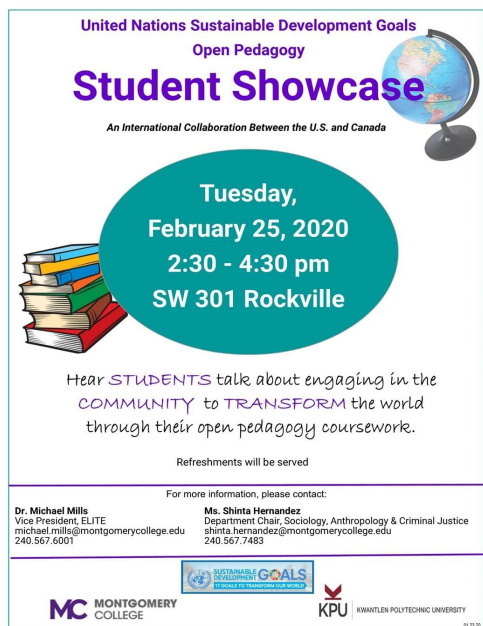
Thus, I asked myself:

- **What data set is good for beginning researchers?**
- **Are students tech-savvy enough to navigate the data set?**
- **Do they know enough about research methods to conduct their own research?**
- **Should I teach SPSS? (I learned that MC does not have SPSS for students).**
- **What about Excel? Some may struggle.**
- **Do students know how to write quantitative papers?**

My concerns were endless.

Still, I decided to do what I wanted to do for many years -- a research project resulting in a basic research paper. The research project was implemented in SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology, where many of my students were fresh out of high school. I selected the General Social Survey for our data source and created a project. Made as simple as possible, the project contained six steps - each a baby step. As you already know, baby steps to instructors could be giant steps to students. Each step was graded quickly so that students could use my comments to proceed to the next step.

Having read the final papers (Step VI), my aim is to continue quantitative reasoning projects in the future. In this highly rationalized age, how can our students be successful without quantitative literacy? Some students cannot calculate their own grade. (Of course, we feel inadequate when we don't know how to select our investments for our 403b). "Learning by doing" fosters improvement. At the beginning of each semester, I tell my students, "You should be willing to be confused. Initial confusion is fine as long as you clarify it." Likewise, we teachers should be willing to read messy papers. Yes, empirical research papers in Introduction to Sociology are messy. Some students do not understand the concepts of research population and sampling. In a few papers, independent and dependent variables were reversed. The biggest challenge is to integrate and align the research question, literature review, methods, results, discussions and conclusion. However, some students clearly enjoyed their own research, and I enjoyed reading their papers. Messy papers are fine. Be messy and learn!



Professional Presentations and Other Achievements

Professor Ginger Robinson (criminal justice) attended the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's (MLAW) Fall Conference in November 2019. MLAW is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan voice for Maryland women and families. This group advocates for progressive legislation and policy that promotes and protects the well-being of Maryland women and their families. Professor Robinson had the privilege of hearing the keynote address given by Delegate Adrienne Jones, the first woman and the first person of color to serve as the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

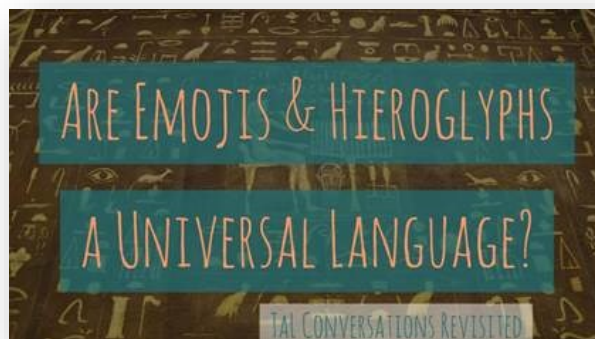
Part time faculty member **Kevin Gibbons** (anthropology) co-published "A Millennium of Icelandic Archaeological Fish Data Examined against Marine Climate Records" in *Quaternary Research* (August 2019). This article combines new marine fish data from medieval and early modern Icelandic archaeological sites with previously published data that focused on different time periods. The researchers find no direct correlation between zooarchaeological patterns and sea ice or storminess in the medieval period and a possible correlation in the early modern period. They argue that this suggests a nuanced relationship between changing climates and fishing patterns in Icelandic history.

Part time faculty member **Zev Cossin** (anthropology) presented at the annual ELITE Faculty Showcase in December 2019. He discussed his experiences as a member of the second cohort in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship. He included his thoughts on the open educational resource assignments he created with partners from Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in British Columbia, Canada, along with student perceptions and experiences. Renewable assignments created through this fellowship are designed to place students at the center of their learning process and to create a more engaging and collaborative learning environment. This fellowship also enabled students to become agents of change in their communities. **Professor Mary Wall** (math) and part time faculty member **Professor Mary Beth Johnson** (education) also presented at the showcase on their fellowship assignments and experiences.

In October 2019, **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) co-presented with **Dr. Michael Mills** (Vice President of ELITE) at the annual Open Education Conference in Glendale, AZ. Their presentation on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship highlighted the first-ever international collaboration with **Dr. Rajiv Jhangiani** of Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in British Columbia, Canada. Similarly, Dr. Jhangiani presented on this fellowship at the annual Open Education Global Conference in Milan, Italy in November 2019. This second fellowship consisted of 13 faculty fellows from MC and KPU who represented 11 disciplines. The interdisciplinary renewable assignments were deployed in Fall 2019 in a total of 19 different courses and 28 sections. More than 700 students across these two institutions participated in this groundbreaking and transformative work. Come and hear some of the students present on their work at the annual Student Showcase on February 25, 2020 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in SW 301 at the Rockville campus.

Lunch and Learn Brown Bags

Dr. Amy Carattini (anthropology) and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) are launching the Department's inaugural brown bag series on Tuesday, February 18 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the Rockville campus. These series are intended to focus on intersectional topics in the three disciplines housed within this Department. The kick-off brown bag will be a discussion around a podcast that examines the origin of emojis in order to spark a wider conversation about how we connect with our students in this modern age. The podcast "Are Emojis and Hieroglyphs a Universal Language?" can be found here: <https://thisanthrolife.com/emojisrevisited/>.





Student Outreach Events


On November 7, 2019, the Department hosted "Careers in Criminal Justice Day" at the Rockville campus whereby nearly 30 law enforcement and related agency representatives were on site to discuss career, cadet, and internship opportunities with students. Recruiters included the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services, Maryland State Police Department, U.S. Capitol Police, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Free Expungement Clinic for MC Students

Clean Slate

November 9
10AM-2pm

Pavilion 4/Room
201 (Takoma
Park/Silver Spring
Campus)



Erase Your
Criminal
Record

Sponsored by the Institute for Race, Justice, and
Civic Engagement and Department of Education
and Social Sciences

To sign up, please contact Professor Ginger Robinson
Ginger.robinson@montgomerycollege.edu
240-567-5823

***Some charges cannot be expunged. Participating
attorneys will advise regarding eligibility*

On November 9, 2019, for the first time ever, **Professor Ginger Robinson** (criminal justice) collaborated with the Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement to offer a free expungement clinic for current students and alumni. This clinic gave students a chance to erase their criminal record, depending on the charge, and have a clean slate in life. Attorneys were on site at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus to advise students regarding eligibility.



On November 14, 2019, the Ethnic Social Studies Certificate Committee organized a student-moderated panel discussion entitled “Immigrants and their Families: Community, Culture, and the Workplace” at the Rockville campus. Co-sponsored with the Department of History and Political Science and the Ethnic Social Studies Student Club, three panelists, including part time faculty member **Professor Michel Tinguri** (anthropology) from the U.S. State Department, shared personal stories of their journeys to and experiences in the U.S. The keynote address was delivered by the Global Humanities Institute Director **Professor Cinder Cooper Barnes** (English).



On November 21, 2019, the first-ever Course Carnival was launched at the Rockville campus. This event was a multi-disciplinary effort between our Department, the Department of History and Political Science, and the Department of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Hospitality Management. Students were able to engage in conversations with faculty from these three departments to learn about courses, degree programs, and transfer opportunities. They also received advising, as well as sat in on teaching demonstrations



On November 26, 2019, artist **Lauren Kingsland** gave a guest lecture in two sections of ANTH 201: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology at the Rockville campus. She related the highlights of her trip to the Southern Region of India in 2008 where she learned about the kolam tradition of continuous line drawing. This tradition is made by women who share and pass on their kolam styles to their daughters. Ultimately, the kolam design tradition came to be the souvenir Ms. Kingsland brought back from India and then became part of her art quilts. She explained how within the kolam are points of meditation (dots) that connect the lines creating a pattern. As part of the lecture, students were encouraged to create their own kolam lines through connecting dots that they identified as their blessings as well as ones that represented their challenges.



Assessment

Professor Debbie Grubb (criminal justice) continues to play an integral role as a member of the Collegewide Assessment Team (CAT), representing the social sciences and humanities. In addition to being the criminal justice advisor at the Rockville campus, she works as a faculty fellow under the direction of **Dr. Cassandra Jones**. Professor Grubb and other colleagues have organized workshops that enable participants to hear about the newly proposed process for General Education Program Assessment and College Area Review Assessment. Attend one of these workshops and provide feedback before the final changes are made:

- February 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in ST 301 (Takoma Park/Silver Spring)
- February 19 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in PK 105 (Germantown)
- March 2 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in SC 151 (Rockville)

Music as Therapy

For six semesters in a row, part time faculty member **Professor Tara Tetrault** (anthropology) coordinated yet another successful concert with Songwriters Against Sexual Assault (SASA) at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. Professor Tetrault worked alongside musician and songwriter **Caroline Ferrante** to design a concert that would enable participants to use music as a means to speak out against their perpetrators. These workshops teach students the importance of activism by taking a stand against domestic violence and intimate partner abuse. These concerts also reinforce the College's role in emphasizing civic responsibility and social justice.

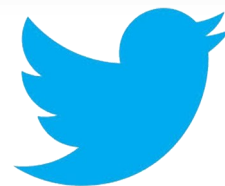


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@ProfHernandez2



Anthropology Day 2020

What do African American history, inequality, justice, Vikings, the environment, immigration, and Snickers bars have in common? --- ANTHROPOLOGY DAYS at Montgomery College!

Anthropology Day is a day for anthropologists to celebrate and share anthropology with the world. Led by **Dr. Amy Carattini**, help us celebrate what anthropology is and what it can achieve by attending one of these seven events during the week of February 18! See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more details.

Anthropology Days, February 18-20, 2020

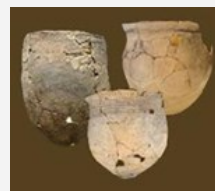
Montgomery College (Takoma Park / Silver Spring, Rockville, & Germantown Campuses)

Tuesday, February 18, 2020: 11am-1pm

Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus: Student Center, 1st Floor Atrium

Pottery & Points Table

Tara Tetrault (Teaches ANTH 201) & Ronald Nunn (Teaches ANTH 215)



Come try your skills at some prehistoric pottery making and explore at how it evolved from Paleoindian to Woodland time periods. What did people during these time periods use to prepare & eat food? There will be a display of steatite (soapstone) and clay pottery from a variety of time periods.

Arrow heads are the things most people know that Native American's left behind - but did you know that (archaeologists) can date them just by looking at them? Did you know that not all arrow heads are really arrow heads? Some are atlatl points. Atlatls are the ancient spear throwing devices used before the bow and arrow showed up in this area. Come and learn how to tell the difference.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020: 2-4pm

Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus: Resource Center (RC) 204

Lecture "Redefining Early African American Communities in Montgomery County"

Tara Tetrault (Teaches ANTH 201)

When Dr. George McDaniel wrote a detailed history of Montgomery County, Maryland, he highlighted many of the earliest African American communities and first families. McDaniel wrote an amazing book detailing the families and communities, their churches, lodges and schools. The purpose of the talk is to learn the history of Montgomery County that included more of a diverse background than just European American. In fact, it included people from many cultural backgrounds, including African and Native Americans. In addition, by reviewing the local archaeological sites, there is evidence of potential hidden foundations and older cemeteries. These things become more important for the county to know about when future developers consider new plans for building in the area.



Wednesday, February 19, 2020: 12pm-2pm

Rockville Campus: Science Center West (SW) 301

Lecture "Landscapes of Inequality: The Archaeology & Justice of Environmental Change"

Kevin Gibbons (Teaches ANTH 201 & ANTH 215)

Early Viking settlers transformed the landscape of Iceland to support grazing livestock and in turn, set off cascading environmental changes that reverberate across the island to this day. During the Medieval period, these landscape changes occurred alongside social and economic shifts as Iceland moved away from household-based subsistence farming and towards a system of rent-paying tenant farmers. This new landscape was stabilized and made sustainable and productive by changes in Iceland's political economy, but at the cost of increased social inequality. Large, lowland farms that were already prosperous flourished at the expense of smaller family farms, whose land was eroded out from underneath them as human-caused environmental change exacerbated deepening sociopolitical divisions. Understanding the dynamics of these complex environmental, social, and economic changes at multiple scales in space and time have important implications for understanding the connection between climate change and environmental justice in today's world.

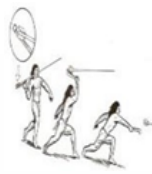


Wednesday, February 19, 2020: 2-4pm

Germantown Campus: Golf Range

Atlatl Spear Throwing Contest

Ronald Nunn (Teaches ANTH 215)



Come and experience for yourself how our ancestors hunted before they had the bow and arrow. The atlatl (pronounced at-lat-al) was invented by the Cro-Magnon people in Europe more than 30,000 years ago to keep them from getting skewered by the horns of ice age cows (Aurochs) they hunted with them. Paleoindians also used atlatls here in North America to hunt the Colombian mammoth, as well as mastodons, musk ox, moose and caribu. The conquistadors were attacked with atlatls when they arrived in Mexico. Incidentally, the name for this spear throwing gadget (atlatl) is an Aztec word. Most of the artifacts found here that you probably always thought were arrow heads may in reality be atlatl points because the bow and arrow only arrived in the Mid- Atlantic about 3000 yrs ago.



Wednesday, February 19, 2020: 6-8pm

Germantown Campus: TBD

Lecture "Immigrant Oral History Project in Alexandria, Virginia"

Terilee Edwards-Hewitt (Teaches ANTH 201 & 256)

The Immigrant Alexandria Project is an ongoing oral history project conducted by the Office of Historic Alexandria. The project was designed to fulfill a goal to help recognize the City's diversity: the most recent census shows 28% percent of all City of Alexandria residents were born outside of the US and the City was looking for a way to recognize and celebrate the city's diversity. Many of the immigrants interviewed are also activists, working for change in the local community. There were two major themes for the interviewee's activism: education and assisting members of immigrant communities. An advantage of using life histories for this Project help demonstrate something which is often overlooked in discussion of immigration: immigrants do not have a monolithic background, the same reasons for coming to the United States or the same occupations in the U.S., even if the immigrants are from the same countries.

Thursday, February 20, 2020: 12-2pm

Rockville Campus: Campus Center, Spot 1 across from the Bookstore

Foodways Table: The Globalization of the Snickers Candy Bar

Barbara Wolff (Teaches ANTH 201 & 240),

Tanya Icaza (Teaches ANTH 201 & 215) &

Amy Carattini (Teaches ANTH 201 & 260)



What do you get if you combine seeds from a Central American evergreen, extracts from Mexican and Southeast Asian grasses, glandular secretions from a Middle Eastern mammal, South American groundnuts, East Asian legumes, African tree oil and eggs from a Southeast Asian bird? The world's best-selling candy bar, Snickers, manufactured by a local company from right here in the DMV! Come by the Foodways table to explore a familiar example of the ongoing globalization of food production and consumption patterns, and to sample candy from around the world.

Thursday, February 20, 2020: 2-4:30pm

Rockville Campus: Technical Center (TC) 136

Food Justice Documentary and Discussion "A Place at the Table"

Zev Cossin (Teaches ANTH 201 & 215)



Join us for a screening of the documentary, "A Place at the Table," and an interactive discussion of the complex situation surrounding food insecurity in the United States and in our local region. Let's think as anthropologists to consider the problem and propose solutions for the future from our positions as students, community members, and future leaders. Complex issues require creative solutions and multiple voices.

A Food Drive will be part of Thursday's, February 20, 2020, activities.