ALUMNI OF COLOR SPOTLIGHT

Joyce M. Bell (PhD, 2007)
Asst. Professor, Sociology
University of Pittsburgh


Minzee Kim (PhD, 2012)
Asst. Professor, Sociology
Ewha University (Seoul, Korea)

Minzee Kim studies the interplay between globalization and law and their implications on human rights. Particularly, she is interested in women’s and children’s rights. She has published on cross-national variations in and outcomes of state policies for various women’s and children’s issues such as children’s survival and development rights, education funding, and women’s employment. Her current research includes an examination of abortion laws and laws relevant to women’s employment. She also conducts research on mental health of the youth during the transition to adulthood.
Ryan C. Alaniz (PhD, 2012)  
*Asst. Professor, Sociology*  
*Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

Ryan Alaniz completed his dissertation research, titled *From Tragedy to Opportunity: Long-term Development in Post-Disaster Intentional Communities in Honduras*, in 2012. He is currently an assistant professor in sociology at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and collaborates with various academic institutions including: United Nations University-Institute for Human and Environment Security, International Social Science Council, and the Fulbright program. Ryan also volunteers with Engineers Without Borders, The Futbol Project, and Restorative Partners.

Marcia Williams (PhD 2008)  
*Adjunct Asst. Professor, Social and Cultural Studies*  
*Marquette University*

Marcia Williams received her doctorate in Sociology from the University of Minnesota in 2008, with specializations in race, culture and education. Her work challenges cultural deficit explanations of the racial gap in academic achievement – which posit that under achievement among blacks stems from an oppositional identity that encourages poor performance in school. Dr Williams’ dissertation, entitled, “*Race, Identity and Education: An Ethnographic Study of Critical Student Agency In A Midwestern Elementary School*” explores the culture of an elementary/middle school in which there was no racial gap in academic achievement.
Elaine Hernandez (PhD 2011)
Asst. Professor, Sociology
Indiana University—Bloomington

Elaine Hernandez received her degrees in public health (MPH) and sociology (PhD) from the University of Minnesota. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Population Research Center, funded by an individual grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health. Her research addresses the structural forces that contribute to the formation and reproduction of social inequalities in health. In her new line of research, she is interested in the intergenerational transmission of health inequalities related to obesity. She teaches courses related to the sociology of health and illness, including a course that will help prepare premedical students for the revised medical college admission test.

Darren L. Wheelock (PhD 2006)
Assoc. Professor, Social and Cultural Studies
Marquette University

Darren Wheelock is an associate professor of criminology at Marquette University. He grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Minnesota. His research examines the ways criminal punishment deepens inequality and also investigates the connection between public attitudes toward criminal punishment and views towards racial minorities. His interests include really good beer, sports (especially basketball), fantasy sports nerdiness, traveling, his job, K-dramas, and spending as much time with his family as he can.
Jennifer C. Lee (PhD 2007)
Assoc. Professor, Sociology Indiana University—Bloomington

Jennifer C. Lee received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2007. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Sociology and is affiliated with Asian American Studies. Her research and teaching interests include sociology of education, work and labor market stratification, and Asian American communities. Jennifer has recently published research on high school employment and dropout, and her current research investigates Asian employment in ethnic economies in the United States. In other research, she examines high school employment patterns and educational attainments of children of immigrants.

Jasmine Harris-LaMothe (PhD 2013)
Assist. Professor, Anthropology & Sociology
Ursinus College

Jasmine Harris-LaMothe holds a Ph.D in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, a Master’s degree in Public Communications from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Women’s Studies from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. She joined the Ursinus College Anthropology and Sociology department in 2014. Dr. Harris-LaMothe’s research interests include race, class, and gender, and the intersectionality of those identities, particularly as they pertain to minority experiences. She is currently working on a weekly podcast to address current events around these topics with quirky twist.