Students from across the globe apply to the Ph.D. program in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Some students apply because they read the work of one of our distinguished faculty members that transformed their thinking about society or social constructs. Other students apply because they understand the rigor of our training and the excellent job placement that our graduates enjoy. Still others apply because they know of the collegial, supportive environment and the generous financial packages offered to all of our graduate students. No matter the reason for applying, once they arrive, students often realize the program exceeds their expectations. The following pages provide revealing snapshots into our intellectual community. You will read about our outstanding local resources, our leadership role in the discipline, ongoing major research projects, our commitment to diversity, and the terrific support we provide to our students.

Welcome to the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota! We hope you will be joining us soon.

Introducing the Graduate Program in Sociology

It is by means of the sociological imagination that men now hope to grasp what is going on in the world, and to understand what is happening in themselves as minute points of the intersections of biography and history within society.

C. Wright Mills
The single-most impressive thing about the Sociology Department has been the ease of collaboration. There is a real receptiveness to different ideas and approaches, and much less top-down instruction.

Andrew Halpern-Manners, MPC Graduate Research Assistant

World-Class Opportunities

The University of Minnesota’s facilities enhance our ability to provide resources and training for our graduate students.

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC) is one of the top five population research centers in the country, with a multi-million-dollar annual budget and over 50 faculty affiliates. This interdisciplinary center brings together scholars from sociology, geography, history, public health, and many other disciplines. The Sociology Department offers a minor in population studies, and several of our students work as MPC Research Assistants every year.

The department encourages other interdisciplinary collaborations and currently has formalized partnerships with the Law School, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; the Institute for Child Development; the Institute for Global Studies; the MacArthur Interdisciplinary Program on Peace and International Cooperation; and the Department of Strategic Management and Organization.

Andrew Halpern-Manners
MPC Graduate Research Assistant

Working with the available MPC census data, Andrew has co-authored a number of papers with MPC affiliates and has traveled to Washington, DC, to sit before a private foundation review panel to discuss his research.

For More Info Go to www.soc.umn.edu/grad

Local Resources

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC), a federally funded research center housed on campus, provides terrific opportunities for students to get directly involved with cutting-edge population-related research, and access to the best data in their field. Currently, MPC (far left, above) is harmonizing public census data of close to 50 countries. As a result, anyone with Internet access can flawlessly conduct user-friendly, quantitative data searches free of charge.
By any measure—journal articles, influential books, media appearances, influencing social policy, shaping public understanding—our faculty lead the way, and we train our students to be the next generation of leaders.

Penny Edgell, Professor

Our faculty members serve on advisory boards, travel the globe to speak at conferences, appear in the media, and publish the books and articles that drive the direction of the discipline. The department is also home to the American Sociological Association journal, Contexts. Edited by Doug Hartmann and Chris Uggen, Contexts is written for a general audience, increasing the public visibility of sociology and bringing a sociological perspective to bear on issues of the day.

Housing a journal provides numerous professional development opportunities for graduate students. The student editorial board (facing page, far right), offered as a seminar for credit, allows students to influence content and to collaborate with faculty in writing and reviewing articles and interviewing top scholars. Students stay current with particular sociological literatures, network with leading researchers, and develop critical editorial skills.

Sociology faculty at the U of M continually influence the direction of the field by publishing current and relevant research across a wide breadth of interest areas.

For More Info Go to www.soc.umn.edu/grad

There is great excitement in the department concerning the impact of Contexts. Not only does the journal reach a large audience, but its interactive website, www.ContextsMagazine.org, enhances the interface between relevant sociological research and the public/media. Stating on the work of the journal, one member of the department exclaimed, “This is sociology! This is what I can show to mom and dad and say, ‘This is what I do!’”
American Mosaic Project – Diversity and Multiculturalism through the Lenses of Race and Religion

From the beginning of the American Mosaic Project* (AMp), primary investigators Penny Edgell, Joseph Gerteis, and Doug Hartmann were very clear about two things: the AMp research was going to be publicly relevant and would, to a large extent, involve department students. The researchers have accomplished what they set out to do. Data from the AMp has led to discoveries about Americans’ perceptions of atheists, discrimination and racial attitudes, anti-Semitism, and “whiteness.” The project also funds student education, provides mentoring in research methods and collaborative writing, and assists quite a few students in finding ideas for their dissertations. Case in point, AMp dissertation fellow Paul Croll designed a whole component of the AMp national survey—which eventually became central to his dissertation—and the data recovered provided leading-edge empirical evidence that is helping to shape the sub-field of race relations. Besides coming out of survey — which eventually became central to his dissertation — and the data recovered provided leading-edge empirical evidence that is helping to shape the sub-field of race relations. * The Flexible Work and Well-Being project is supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and other national funding sources.

The department is continuously taking on new projects. For example, Exits and Entries is a large faculty-student collaborative project initiated by Chris Uggen and Candace Kruttschnitt. In response to changes in the way the government serves the public, Exits and Entries seeks to explore the lived experiences of people who were temporarily “removed” from society and who are transitioning back into the community. Students work in partnership with faculty experts in five areas of interest (correctional, chemical health, military, and foster care systems) and assume visible, integral, and active roles on each research site. As faculty researcher Ross Macmillan describes, “Students collaborate on three different levels: interviewing the target populations, analyzing the collected data, and developing the proposal for a larger study.” One student, Jeannette Hussemann, explains “We (the research assistants) seem to be the backbone of the project … it is exciting and invigorating.”

The Entries and Exits project can help us understand the experiences of those most vulnerable members of our society, as well as those upon whose help our society depends. As Professor Macmillan said, regarding interviews with returning soldiers, “to some degree, we — as a state institution — owe it to these people who have gone above and beyond for the sake of our country.” Exits and Entries is just one more way that the University of Minnesota does research that can help make our society a better place.

Left to right: Doug Hartmann, Joseph Gerteis, Paul Croll, and Penny Edgell.

References:
1. The Entries and Exits project is supported by the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota.
A diverse community enriches graduate education by providing a multiplicity of views and perspectives that enhance research, teaching, and the development of new knowledge.

**COMMITTED TO Diversity**

Joyce Bell (far right, above) was awarded a Graduate Research Partnership Program grant that allowed her to work with Professor Douglas Hartmann on the subject of diversity in everyday discourse. Bell explains, “Working with Doug on this paper really helped me to formulate my ideas in a ‘publishable’ way. It also helped me to better understand the publication process from submission to revisions to acceptance.” In 2007, the American Sociological Association’s top-rated journal, The American Sociological Review, accepted Bell’s paper for publication.

**The Benefits of Diverse Scholarship**

A diverse mix of students promotes respect for, and opportunities to learn from, people with the broad range of backgrounds and experiences that constitute modern society.

Through the Graduate School’s Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) program, Ryan Alaniz studied the roots of the controversial 1970s American Indian Movement (AIM) with mentor Joseph Gerteis. Ryan explains, “I chose to work under Joe because of his strong theoretical background in social movements … it is great to have someone on your side. He is really helping me increase my proficiencies as a sociologist.” Ryan’s strongest interests center on Latin America and exploited indigenous populations. “The AIM movement actually began in Minneapolis,” says Ryan, “and although this research is not directly related to my Latin American interests, it provides an excellent platform from which to gain an understanding of a specific exploited indigenous population.”

Ryan Alaniz
Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellow

“The University and the surrounding Twin Cities area provide tremendous resources for my research. The local population has many immigrant populations, and the U of M is one of only a few US research institutions that provide academic visas for scholars to go to Cuba.”

For more info go to www.soc.umn.edu/grad
A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

Our department believes in a holistic approach to supporting our students. That is why we maintain a nurturing environment of collaborative scholarship and professional socialization. We also seek to minimize student’s financial concerns by offering 5-year aid packages and numerous funding opportunities for regional and national conferences, pre-dissertation scouting trips, and dissertation fieldwork.

“Not having to worry about financial problems allows me to concentrate on my academics,” relates Minzee Kim, a graduate student who was offered a 5-year aid package. Minzee also values the support of her fellow sociology students. “Naturally, we do a lot of things other than reading books and writing papers. We witness each other’s joys and hardships and share in those moments. We also enjoy more mundane things, such as jogging by the Mississippi River, and exploring new restaurants and local venues. I spend as much time with department members as I do at home!”

This intellectually rigorous yet supportive environment results in well-rounded graduates who go on to fill prestigious professoriate positions around the country and across the world.

MINZEE KIM
Graduate Student

“Excellent faculty advising is a strength of this department. My dissertation committee members are actively involved in every phase of my academic and professional work.”

Supporting our Students

Departmental support and civic engagement are part of the culture here. Graduate students are encouraged to be proactive in our communities, in shaping our department, our university and our discipline.

HEATHER HELLENS, Doctoral Dissertation Fellow

MINZEE KIM
Graduate Student

“Excellent faculty advising is a strength of this department. My dissertation committee members are actively involved in every phase of my academic and professional work.”

David Knoke. However, financial support is not the sole focus. Mani explains, “I appreciate the incredibly detailed and specific feedback I have received from Prof. Knoke on my writing. I think it is the single most important thing a faculty member can do for an international student; I don’t think there is any other way to learn the nuances of Western academic writing.”

FOR MORE INFO GO TO www.soc.umn.edu/grad
Contact us
To learn more about the department’s mission, program requirements, application procedures, and funding opportunities, please contact us:

**ONLINE**
www.soc.umn.edu/grad

**EMAIL**
gradprog@soc.umn.edu

**PHONE**
(612) 624-4300

To contact an admissions officer directly, please email or call The Graduate School Office of Admissions at gsquest@umn.edu or (612) 625-3014.

Online Application
The department requires all applicants to submit an online application (and supporting documents) to The Graduate School. 
**TO APPLY, GO TO**
www.grad.umn.edu/prospective_students

Prior to initiating an application, all applicants should review the application procedures found on the department website.

Financial Aid
The department seeks to support all of its graduate students with full funding throughout their entire time in residence. Therefore, at the time that admissions decisions are made, the admissions committee determines as best it can which funding sources will be most appropriate for each admitted student. Funding sources include fellowships, graduate assistantships, and instructorships. Some fellowships require applicants to self-identify and/or submit various supplemental pieces of information, so applicants should be careful to review the funding section of the department website.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO**
www.soc.umn.edu/grad/funding

Campus Visits
Outside of an annual recruiting event for admitted students, the Department of Sociology does not provide organized campus visits. However, prospective students are encouraged to directly contact our faculty, the Director of Graduate Studies, or the Graduate Program Associate to arrange individual appointments. Faculty interest areas, recent publications, and contact information can all be found on the faculty web pages at www.soc.umn.edu/faculty.

Student Services
The Sociology Department embraces the University of Minnesota’s position that promoting and supporting diversity among the student body is central to the academic mission of the University. We define diversity to encompass many characteristics including economic disadvantage, special talents, evidence of leadership qualities, race or ethnicity, a strong work record, and disability.

The Department of Sociology is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities through recruitment, admission, and support programs that promote diversity, foster successful academic experiences, and cultivate the leaders of the next generation.

**GLBT PROGRAMS OFFICE**
www.gblta.umn.edu

**DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE**
www.ds.umn.edu

**DIVERSITY OFFICE**
www.grad.umn.edu/outreach

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE**
www.isss.umn.edu

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