

Fall 2016

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**Thanks to our  
generous  
supporters!**

**Your donations  
change students'  
lives.**

Steve & Linda Johnson

Barbara Carter

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David Maines

Anthony Ladd

AKD National Office

**You help fund  
scholarships, student  
travel and  
conference  
attendance,  
professional  
development and  
immersive learning  
experiences,  
research projects  
and more!**

**Chairperson Greeting**

We hope that the summer has been engaging and positive.

This has been a year marked by change and accomplishment. As you read through this issue, we hope you will once again share in the excitement of the many great accomplishments of our BSU Sociology community.

We continue to connect with the community with our immersive learning and internship experiences, and our campus

and disciplinary leadership is unmatched. We hope that you will be inspired when you read about the stellar research our faculty are conducting.

We offer our sincerest welcome to new and returning students and congratulate our recent graduates. Please share your news with us. We would love to include your updates in our next newsletter!

We have had a stellar year and look forward to 2016-17.



Melinda Messineo,  
Chairperson, Sociology

**Scholarship Recipient Named**



Left: Leilani Pearce with Dr. Steve Johnson

**Leilani Pearce** was named the 2016 Tamney Scholarship Recipient. Presented in honor of the career and contributions of departed faculty member, Dr. Joseph Tamney, the award recognizes students who have demonstrated, through papers and projects in their sociology courses, sound sociological ideas about the causes of social behavior. Congratulations Leilani!



Dr. Joseph Tamney

**Congrats to our recent grads!**

**MA Recipients**

John Anderson  
Brendan Dugan  
Wes Heath  
Cole Heady

Michael Light  
Jordan Meyer  
Matthew Sommerville  
We are so proud of you!

**BA/BS Recipients**

Alexis Beane	Samuel Lawson
Meagan Brant	Lillian Luttringer
Sonia Brewer	Sunni Matters
Brett Donley	Brad Morrison
Tori Foster	Jessica Oracheff
Sam Hebenstreit	Savanna Paddock
Tom Henry	Erin Phelps
Nathan Hueber	Matthias Tankersley
Ciara Jones	Simeon Tesfagiorgis
Grace Kelly	Lara Schneider
Justin Jacobs	Dawn Spencer
Hallie Johns	Christina Valdez
Alicia Klingerman	Mackenzie
Patrick Kluger	Weisweaver
Rachel Kucera	Brianna Williams



(left to right) Simeon, Nathan, Ciara, and Rachel

## Students Study Socio-History and Justice of Civil Rights in Ferguson

Drs. Ione DeOllos and Bryan Byers (CJC) led a 6.0 credit hour Immersive Learning course on civil rights and justice issues in Indiana, and Ferguson, Missouri.

In addition to classroom preparation on these topics, students were trained in qualitative interview methods and gathered data in Ferguson, Missouri in the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting and the Department of Justice Civil Rights Report as a result of the events there. Display panels were created from the interviews and shared at numerous events and venues throughout the spring.

Professors DeOllos and Byers received a Provost Immersive Learning Initiative Grant to fund the summer research and fall course implementation. Yvonne

Thompson, a representative from their community partner, the Muncie Human Rights Commission, joined them for part of the field-work experience.



Photo: Ferguson participants (top down) Jasmine Paige, Kameo Kirby, Ramona Simmons, Arlesha Moore with Yvonne Thompson



Photo: (left to right ) Kristyn Hobbs, Jamell Johnson, Dr. DeOllos, & Buddy Jones

## Students Present Research at North Central Midwest Annual Meeting

Each year the Department of Sociology sponsors a team of Graduate and Undergraduate students to attend the North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting . This year the meeting was held with the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL , and five students presented their original research.

The trip was funded in part through a grant from the National AKD office.

### Brendan Dugan

Robust Regression for Testing Fundamental Causes: A Demonstration of Alternatives to Standard OLS Models

### Rachel Stenger

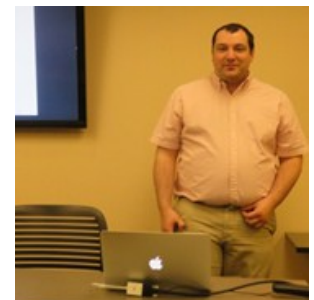
The Rationalization of Transracial Adoption

### Wes Heath

An Analysis of LGBT Youth Organizations and their Effectiveness at Reducing Anxiety and Empowering LGBT Young Adults

### Jordan Reinoehl

College as a Factory: Application of Marxist Theory to the Modern College Student Experience



Jordan Meyer (above)

The Effects of Race, Class, and Gender on HPV Vaccination Uptake

### **NCSA Conference Themes**

**2016**

**"Inequality, Injustice, and Intersectionality"**

**2017**

**"Peace in a Time of Polarization"**

Photo: AKD members (left to right) Rachel Stenger, Donnie Watkins, Wes Heath, & Dr. Melinda Messineo



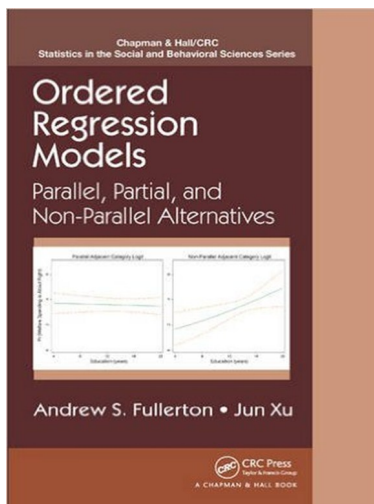
## Faculty Books Abound—Three New Books from Sociology Faculty

We are extremely pleased to announce that our faculty will have three books coming out in 2016-17. There will be an official book release party in September and if you are in the area, we hope you will attend. We would love to have you join us. Be sure to look for updates on Facebook.

### ***Ordered Regression Models: Parallel, Partial, and Non-Parallel Alternatives***

By Andrew S Fullerton and Jun Xu

This work presents regression models for ordinal outcomes, which are variables that have ordered categories but un-



known spacing between the categories. The book provides comprehensive coverage of the three major classes of ordered regression models (cumulative, stage, and adjacent) as well as variations based on the application of the parallel regression assumption.

Text from <https://www.crcpress.com/Ordered-Regression-Models-Parallel-Partial-and-Non-Parallel-Alternatives/Fullerton-Xu/p/book/9781466569737>  
Find out more online!

### ***Gendered Bodies and Leisure: The Practice and Performance of American Belly Dance***

by Rachel Kraus

With its roots in Middle Eastern and North



Photos: (column top down) Dr. Jun Xu, Dr. Roger Wojtkiewicz, and Dr. Rachel Kraus

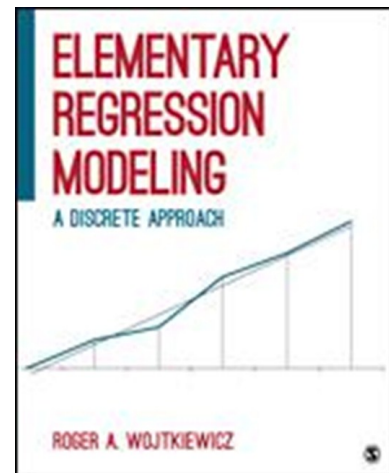
leisure activity in the West with women (and some men) of all ages and body types pursuing the activity for diverse reasons.

Drawing on empirical research, fieldwork, and interviews with participants, this book investigates the social world and small group cultures of American belly dance, examining the various ways in which people use leisure to construct the self and social relationships.

### ***Elementary Regression Modeling: A Discrete Approach***

by Roger A. Wojtkiewicz

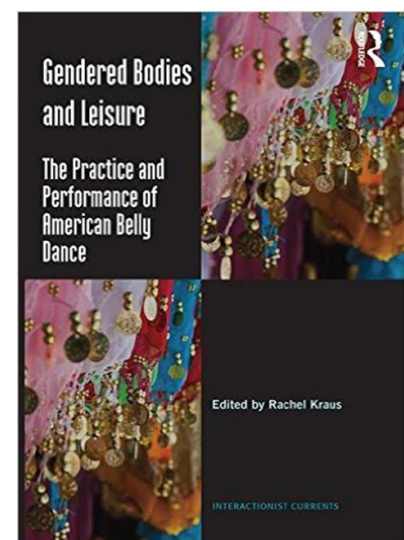
This user-friendly book gives the reader a thorough understanding of concepts like nestedness, higher-order differences, and constraints



by providing a conceptual basis for some of the things quantitative researchers ordinarily do when conducting regression analyses.

Text from <https://study.sagepub.com/wojtkiewicz>

Find out more online!



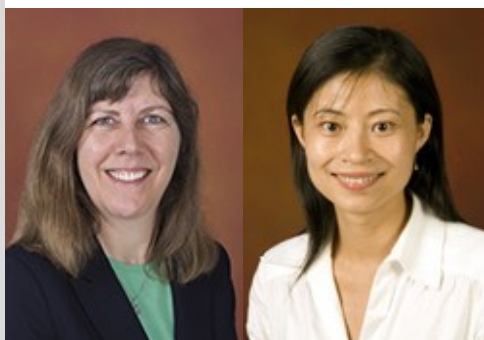
Text from <https://www.routledge.com/Gendered-Bodies-and-Leisure-The-Practice-and-Performance-of-American-Belly-Dance/Kraus/p/book/9781138000000>  
Find out more online!

## Faculty Promotions to Celebrate

The Ball State University Trustees recently approved the placement of Dr. Richard Petts on tenure and the promotion of Dr. Rachel Kraus and Dr. Chadwick Menning to full professor. These promotions recognize the tireless commitment to scholarship and teaching that these faculty embody. The BSU community is extremely fortunate to have these faculty as members. Congratulations and thank you for your countless contributions!

## 15 Years of Service Recognized

Dr. Lisa Pellerin was recognized for her 15 years of outstanding service at Ball State University as both faculty member and Director of Women's and Gender Studies. Thank you for your leadership!



## 2016 Sabbatical Presentation

In March, Dr. Fang Gong gave her research leave presentation titled "The Model of the Model Minority? Explaining Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Outcomes Among Asian Americans."

The study revealed considerable amount of ethnic variations in self-reported mental health and psychiatric disorders. Socioeconomic status and social support turned out to be important mediating factors that help explain the mental health advantage of Asian Indians compared to other ethnic groups.

## Year 1 Graduate Student Cohort

Congratulations to our first year cohort on an outstanding start! Well done!



Photos:above Dr. Richard Petts (top) Dr. Rachel Kraus w/ coauthor and BSU MA grad Zak Palmer

Photos left: Dr. Lisa Pellerin (left) Dr. Fang Gong (right)

Bottom photo: (left to right) Terri Manring, Jessica Poore, David Nickel, Gulzar Jalal, Jordan Reinoehl, and Rachel Stenger

Not pictured: Derick Brady and Gage VanDine



## Faculty Scholarship Highlights

Petts, Richard J. 2015. "Parental Religiosity and Youth Religiosity: Variations by Family Structure." *Sociology of Religion* 76:95-120.

Kraus, Rachel, Scott Desmond, & Zachary Palmer. 2015. "Being Thankful: Examining the Relationship between Young Adult Religiosity and Gratitude." *Journal of Religion and Health*. 54(4):1331-1344

Holtzman, Mellisa & Chadwick Menning. 2015.

"Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Programming for College-Level Sexual Assault Prevention: Illustrating the Benefits of a Combined Approach" *eJournal of Public Affairs* 4: 12-38.

Holtzman, Mellisa. 2015.

"Tales from a Classroom Ninja: What Martial Arts Can Teach Us About Transformative Student Experiences." *Sociological Focus* 48: 300-307.

Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. 2015. "Integrating Experiential Learning and Applied Research to Promote Student Learning and Faculty Research." *College Teaching* 63: 112-118.

Holtzman, Mellisa & Chadwick L. Menning. 2015. "A New Model for Sexual Assault Protection: Creation and Initial Testing of Elemental." *Journal of Applied Social Science* 9: 139-155.

Menning, Chadwick & Mellisa Holtzman. 2015. "Combining Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Approaches in Sexual Assault Programming." *Journal of American College Health* 63: 513-522



Dr. Mellisa Holtzman



Dr. Chadwick Menning





**Photos from the  
2015-16 Immersive  
Learning and  
Voices of Ferguson  
Showcases**



## Alpha Kappa Delta Welcomes New Members

The Zeta Chapter of AKD, the International Sociological Honors Society, is pleased to announce the 2015-16 initiate class:

Meagan Brant (Vice President)  
Tom Henry  
Jessica Hesch  
Rachel Kucera  
Leilani Pearce  
Erin Phelps  
Savanna Paddock  
Jordan Reinoehl (President)  
Danielle Staley  
Rachel Stenger (Secretary/ Treasurer)



Photo: (left to right) Tom, Jordan, Meagan, Leilani, Savanna, Rachel, & Erin

## Students Are Making an Impact Working with Community Partners

Our immersive learning experiences continue to connect students to community partners. Ferguson, Capstone and Research Methods students created and distributed surveys, facilitated focus groups, conducted an ecological content analysis, led community based discourse analysis and coded hours of interviews all with community partners.

### The 2015-16 Community Partners included:

- \*TEAMwork For Quality Living
- \*Hancock County Drug Court
- \*United Way Literacy Campaign
- \*Edible Muncie Food Scarcity Program

\*Pathstone Meth Use Reduction Unit

\*Muncie Human Rights Commission

\*Muncie Downtown Redevelopment

\*Whitely Community Council Safety Subcommittee

\*Whitley Community Council "Serve to Learn" TimeBanking Initiative

Thank you to all of our community partners for making these learning experiences possible!





## Sociology Main Office

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Please do not hesitate to contact  
our administrative coordinator  
Lisa Etchison with questions.



**Congratulations to our**

**2015-16**

**Outstanding Seniors**

**Tom Henry & Meagan Brant**



**Want more BSU Sociology news?**

Check out our weekly updates on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/BSUSociology>

## Theses and Recognitions to Celebrate

We have three fantastic theses to recognize this year:

"An Analysis of LGBT Youth Organizations and their Effectiveness at Reducing Anxiety and Empowering LGBT Young Adults"

Wes Heath, MA thesis,

"The Effects of Race, Class, and Gender on HPV Vaccination Uptake"

Jordan Meyer, MA thesis

"Who Wears the Cape in This Relationship?: An Analysis of Gender in Superhero Films"

Tori Foster, Honors Thesis

**Congrats to our thesis writers!**

Photo: (Left) Dr. Jun Xu and Rachel Stenger (bottom corner) Tori Foster (bottom left to right) Jon Anderson, Brendan Dugan, Wes Heath, Michael Light and Jordan Meyer

We are pleased to  
announce that the

**2015-16**

**Outstanding First Year  
Graduate Student is**

**Rachel Stenger**

**Well done!**

