



**HARTWICK  
COLLEGE**

# **The (up)Roaring 2020's: Sociology's Responsibility in Addressing Social Problems**

## **Regional Sociology Symposium**

**Hartwick College**  
Department of Sociology,  
Criminology, and Human Services  
**Oneonta, NY**  
**April 1, 2023**

# Symposium Description

Pierre Bourdieu once remarked that “many sociologists marvel at the ways in which the world changes. I marvel at how it stays the same.” Despite some predictions that the ascendancy of Western liberal democracy in the 1990’s heralded the end of the history, the 2020’s have witnessed a wholesale reversal of many of the hard-fought gains and achievements of progressive social movements in the realm of women’s rights, civil rights, and labor rights. The 2020’s have ushered in a return of nationalism, authoritarianism, and global unrest that feels more reminiscent of the Cold War era. Our symposium offers an opportunity to reflect on how we got to this point and where we might go from here. Some major areas of focus include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- What do recent developments such as the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, the war in Ukraine, and the populist political uprisings in places such as Brazil, Italy, Sweden, and the US indicate about our current political moment and the future direction of global politics?
- How has late-stage capitalism altered the conventional relationships between people, places, work, and politics?
- What role has the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and resulting social adjustment played in undermining progressive movements?
- Do recent developments such as the 2022 midterm elections in the US or Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s presidential victory in Brazil inspire hope for the remainder of the 2020’s?

The symposium features scholarship from undergraduate students, graduate students, and early career faculty in the Upstate New York area. We are excited for attendees and participants to join us to discuss contemporary social issues, share ideas and opinions, and build a community of scholars.

## General Schedule

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:00am          | Check-In                                    |
| 10:00am         | Keynote address, <b>Bernice Pescosolido</b> |
| 11:15-11:30am   | Refreshments                                |
| 11:30am-12:50pm | Morning Sessions 1 – 3                      |
| 1:00-2:00pm     | Lunch                                       |
| 2:00-3:20pm     | Afternoon Sessions 4 – 6                    |
| 3:20-3:40pm     | Refreshments                                |
| 3:40-5:00pm     | Afternoon Sessions 7 – 9                    |
| 5:00pm          | Closing remarks by <b>Darren Reisberg</b>   |

# Acknowledgements

The symposium organizers owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to many individuals and organizations that helped to make this event possible. First and foremost, we would like to thank each of our conference participants. The range of ideas being presented at today's symposium is a testament to the intellectual strength of the sociological community in the upstate New York area. We are extraordinarily grateful for your scholarly contributions and for your participation at today's symposium.

The faculty and staff at Hartwick College deserve an enormous amount of thanks for making this symposium possible. We would like to thank:

- **The Office of Academic Affairs**, particularly **Laurel Bongiorno** and **Cherilyn Lacy**, for their unwavering support of our ideas and for providing funding for our undergraduate students to attend the symposium
- **The Office of Institutional Advancement**, especially **Joe Ficano** and **Sue Ferris**, for their work in soliciting donations from our alumni in support of the event today
- **The Technology Resource Center**, especially **Christopher Spiwak** and **Diman Sali**, for graciously attending to all of our technological needs
- **The Office of Strategic Communication**, specifically **Gail Glover** and her team, for their assistance with the promotion of the symposium

**Stephanie Brunetta** also deserves special recognition for her amazing work in designing the symposium website and patiently dealing with our numerous requests. We are also very thankful for **Darlene Kopf**, Catering & Premium Service Manager, for providing lunch and refreshments for our guests.

**Lillian Whelan**, our Undergraduate Sociology Symposium Coordinator, was invaluable in her support of the symposium organizers. **Mickaela Gulla**, the Student Assistant for the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Human Services also deserves considerable thanks.

We also want to send our sincerest gratitude to Hartwick College's President, **Darren Reisberg**, for delivering the closing remarks at today's event. Simply put, without the college's many contributions this symposium would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, **Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society** and the **American Sociological Association**. The Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, was founded in 1920 at the University of Southern California. This Honor Society seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of social problems, sociology, and intellectual activities that lead to the improvement in the human condition.

The **American Sociological Association Sorokin Lecture Grant** allowed us to host a winner of an ASA-wide award from the past two calendar years to deliver a lecture at a state, regional, or aligned sociological association meeting or on an academic campus. We are grateful to Mark Fernando, Director of Governance and Administration at ASA, for selecting our application.

We are thrilled to host **Bernice Pescosolido** as the keynote speaker of our symposium. Dr. Pescosolido is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Indiana University and Founding Director of the Indiana Consortium for Mental Health Services Research (ICMHSR) and the new Irsay Family Research Institute. She is an elected member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences. Her research focuses broadly on how social networks and culture provide insights into health, illness and healing phenomena, and more specifically on four areas – stigma, suicide, health care use, and health care systems. We are honored that Dr. Pescosolido is able to join us today.



# ABRIDGED AGENDA

Saturday, April 1st

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9:00am Check-In & Refreshments Golisano Hall

10:00am **Keynote Address** Golisano 103

*From Sociological Science to Social Action:  
Mental Health, Stigma and Student Empowerment*  
Bernice Pescosolido Indiana University

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11:15-11:30am **Break & Refreshments** Golisano 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby

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**Morning Sessions 1 – 3** **11:30am-12:50pm**

**Session 1 Responses to COVID-19** Golisano 103

*The Experience of COVID-19 in Central New York*

**Panelists:** Alexander R. Thomas SUNY Oneonta  
Nicole Scienza Utica University  
Kirsten Kemmerer SUNY Oneonta  
Gregory M. Fulkerson SUNY Oneonta  
Sallie Han SUNY Oneonta  
Elizabeth Seale SUNY Oneonta  
Laurah Klepinger Utica University  
James Zians SUNY Oneonta  
Brian M. Lowe SUNY Oneonta

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**Session 2 Sociology of Violence** Golisano 301

*Police Violence in Black and white: A comparative case history of mainstream and Black newspaper accounts of Denise Hawkins' 1975 killing in Rochester, NY*

**Authors:** Ted Forsyth Alfred University  
Mallory Szymanski Alfred University

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*The Criminal Justice System and the Social Issue of Domestic Violence in Postsocialist China*

**Author:** Tiantian Zheng SUNY Cortland

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*Where do you live? The effect of areas of residence on intimate partner violence*

**Authors:** Mickaela Gulla Hartwick College  
Tristani Makharashvili Hartwick College  
Elena Chernyak Hartwick College

**Session 3****Global Sociology**

Golisano 303

*Palestine – The Dynamics of Occupation***Author:** Stuart Parker Kingsborough Community College*“Asian American” as a Floating Signifier: Ascribing and Redefining Racial and Ethnic Identity at a PWI***Author:** Shania Kuo Hamilton College*US Fascism: One Nation, Under God, with Liberty and Justice for Some***Author:** Ari Haney Binghamton University*Patterns of Espionage: The Differences in Gender, Sociological Characteristics, and Motivations Behind One of America’s Most Notorious Crimes***Author:** Grace-Ann Porpeggia Hartwick College**1:00-2:00pm****Lunch**Golisano 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Caesar Salad, Greek Pasta Salad, Assorted Sandwiches

**Afternoon Sessions 4 – 6****2:00-3:20pm****Session 4****Latin American Studies**

Golisano 103

*The Latine question: Tracing the historical construction of political and racial identity among Latines in the United States?***Authors:** Arturo H. Enamorado III Kingsborough Community College  
Xavier Moyssén Álvarez CUNY Mexican Studies Institute,  
CUNY NYC College of Technology*Populist Politics in Realigning Mexico: Evidences from History***Author:** Xavier Moyssén Álvarez CUNY Mexican Studies Institute,  
CUNY NYC College of Technology

*Harnessing el nuevo petroleo: La economía naranja and Urban Displacement in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia*

**Author:** Michael Stephens Binghamton University

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*A Tale of Two Wars – Columbia vs. Afghanistan: The United States’ Policy Agendas, Securitization & Counterterrorism*

**Author:** Grace-Ann Porpegia Hartwick College

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**Session 5 Cultural Sociology Golisano 301**

*“The best marketing device ever!”: Illiberal identifications for the last emporium on earth*

**Authors:** Thomas F. Bechtold University of Tennessee Knoxville

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*The Ruling Class Does Rule: Reflections on the UAW-Volkswagen Labor Organizing Campaign*

**Author:** Zachary McKenney Hartwick College

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*New Fears: Shifting Cultural Representations and New Tropes in Horror Movies*

**Author:** Kelsey Berry SUNY Brockport

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*Rural Monsters: The Criminalization of Poor Rural Whites through Contemporary Horror Video Games*

**Author:** Michael Branch Hartwick College

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**Session 6 Contemporary Sociological Issues Golisano 303**

*Sociological aspects of Thomas Merton’s poetry*

**Authors:** Joe Marren SUNY Buffalo State

*The Fight for Disability Rights in the Past and Present: Why We Cannot Forget the Past While Preserving Our Rights in the Present*

**Author:** Dan Pezzetta George Washington University

*Economics as an Unethical Discipline*

**Author:** Jeannette C. Mitchell Rochester Institute of Technology

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*From Human to Group Rights? What can Sociology teach us about the immigration 'problem?'*

**Author:** Stuart Parker Kingsborough Community College

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**3:20-3:40pm Break & Refreshments Golisano 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby**

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**Afternoon Sessions 7 – 9 3:40-5:00pm**

**Session 7 Contemporary Issues in Education Golisano 301**

*Strategies for the Unequal Distribution of Emotional Labor in Graduate Student and Contingent Teaching*

**Authors:** Matthew H. McLeskey SUNY Oswego  
Laura Obernesser SUNY Buffalo

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*The Impact of Partisan Control and Religion on Sexual Education in the U.S.*

**Author:** Lillian Whelan Hartwick College

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*The Influence of Conspiratorial Thinking on School Violence Reform*

**Author:** Ryan Ceresola Hartwick College

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*Cut short or ran its course? Examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Opt Out Movement in New York State*

**Author:** Selene Cammer-Bechtold Syracuse University

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**Session 8 Social Change and Activism Golisano 303**

*Social (Work) Distancing: the Growing Gap Between Social Workers & Legislation Post-2020*

**Author:** Grace-Ann Porpeggia Hartwick College  
Trevor Van Niel New England College



*Understanding the Performance and Reception of Athlete Activism*

**Authors:** Kyle Green SUNY Brockport

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*Perceived power over the US government mediates the relationship of mental health to media consumption about mass shootings and the overturn of Roe V. Wade*

**Authors:** Melanie L. Mohn Hartwick College  
Madison L. Corso Hartwick College  
Italia I. Cerretani Hartwick College  
Pauller A. Musyoka Hartwick College  
Emily R. Weglein Hartwick College  
Katie E. Doliver Hartwick College  
Allan M. Dumas Hartwick College  
William J. Kowalczyk Hartwick College

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**Session 9 Applied Sociology Golisano 103**

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*Cultivating the Sociological Imagination through Public Policy Analysis*

**Author:** Timothy McCorry Medaille University

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*Re-Imagining Ideological Polarization: From Public Issues to Private Troubles*

**Author:** Kevin Clarke Medaille University

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*An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Orders of Protection in Intimate Partner Violence Cases*

**Author:** Tabitha Peterangelo Medaille University

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*The Politics of Judicial Interpretation*

**Author:** Emmanuel Wright Medaille University

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*A Policy Analysis of Solitary Confinement for Juveniles: The Case of Kalief Browder*

**Author:** Sabrina (Ophelia) Banoo Medaille University

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**Closing Remarks Golisano 103**

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**5:00pm Darren Reisberg Hartwick College President**

# Sponsors

Funding for this symposium was made possible in part by a Sociological Research Grant from the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society. The views expressed in written symposium materials and by speakers and presenters do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of Alpha Kappa Delta; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by Alpha Kappa Delta.



We are proud to feature Bernice A. Pescosolido, recipient of the American Sociological Association's 2021 Public Understanding of Sociology Award, as our keynote speaker. Her participation is sponsored by the ASA Sorokin Lecture Grant.



# Symposium Organizers

**Dr. Elena Chernyak**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department Chair  
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**Dr. Michael Branch**, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice  
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