



**HARTWICK
COLLEGE**

Portrait of a Tipping Point: Critical Questions for Social Scientists in 2025

Regional Sociology Symposium

Hartwick College
Department of Sociology,
Criminology, and Human Services
Oneonta, NY
April 5, 2025

Symposium Description

Anthony Giddens stated that “The modes of life brought into being by modernity have swept us away from all traditional types of social order, in quite unprecedented fashion.” The promise of the ascendancy of Western liberal democracy in the 21st century has gone largely unfulfilled. Instead, in the last decade, we have witnessed a rise in authoritarian politics, religious fundamentalism, and international conflicts that have been coupled with an increasing skepticism in scientific progress and independent journalism. We believe that 2025 represents a tipping point—a critical threshold in the struggle between democracy and authoritarianism, science and incognizance, and cooperation and discord. 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:

- Threats to human rights in the 21st century How has late-stage capitalism altered the conventional relationships between people, places, work, and politics?
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine. Migration as experience in the context of Russian aggression against Ukraine.
- International, state, regional, and local aspects of (im)migration. Models, strategies, and actions for the integration of (im)migrants in contemporary states.
- The 2024 Elections. Democracy, authoritarianism, and the transformations of the radical and far right.

The symposium features scholarship from undergraduate students, graduate students, and 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	Registration and breakfast
10:00am	Keynote address, Cecilia Menjívar
11:15-11:30am	Refreshments
11:30am-12:50pm	Morning Sessions 1 – 4
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch
2:00-3:20pm	Afternoon Sessions 5 – 8
3:20-3:40pm	Refreshments
3:40-5:00pm	Afternoon Sessions 9 – 12

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 Technology Resource Center**, especially **Christopher Spiwak** and **Diman Sali**, for graciously attending to all of our technological needs
- **The Office of Strategic Communication**, specifically **Robert Murdock** and his 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.

Silence Baggesee and **Indigo Shepard**, the President and Vice President of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Club, were invaluable in her support of the symposium. **Tianna Wyskowski**, 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, **Jim Mullen**, for delivering the opening 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 Cecilia Menjívar as the keynote speaker for our symposium. Cecilia Menjívar is the Dorothy L. Meier Chair in Social Equities and is Professor of Sociology at UCLA. She specializes in immigration, gender, family dynamics, social networks, religious institutions, and broad conceptualizations of violence. Menjívar is interested in how state power manifests itself through legal regimes and formal institutions and bureaucracies to shape microprocesses in everyday life. Menjívar served as the President of the American Sociological Association in 2022. Her seminal text *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America* was the winner of the William J. Goode Outstanding book award. In 2024 Menjívar was the recipient of both the ASA's Jessie Bernard Award and the Public Understanding of Sociology Award.



AGENDA

Saturday, April 5th

9:00am	Registration Breakfast	Golisano 1 st Floor Lobby Golisano 3 rd Floor Lobby
--------	---------------------------	--

10:00am	Keynote Address <i>Root Causes of Central American Migration and the Precariousness of Temporary Protected Status</i>	Golisano 103
---------	---	--------------

Cecilia Menjivar	University of California, Los Angeles
------------------	---------------------------------------

11:15-11:30am	Break & Refreshments	Golisano 3 rd Floor Lobby
---------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Morning Sessions 1 – 4	11:30am-12:50pm
-------------------------------	------------------------

Session 1	The Russian Invasion of Ukraine	Golisano 103
------------------	--	--------------

European Union Consumer Rights for Migrants from Ukraine

Author:	Mira Malczynska Bialy	University of Rzeszow-Poland
----------------	-----------------------	------------------------------

War in Ukraine and the Problem of Disinformation

Authors:	Krzysztof Zarna	University of Rzeszow-Poland
	Jakub Czopek	University of Rzeszow-Poland

Ukrainian Migrants in Poland: Assimilation, Integration or Intercultural Conflict?

Authors:	Grzegorz Bonusiak	University of Rzeszow-Poland
	Zofia Sawicka	University of Rzeszow-Poland

Challenges and Social Policy Strategies Based on the Experiences of War Refugees from Ukraine

Authors:	Hubert Kotarski	University of Rzeszow-Poland
	Magdalena Pokrzywa	University of Rzeszow-Poland
	Dorota Rynkowska	University of Rzeszow-Poland

Session 2	The Sociology of Violence	Golisano 201
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

Trajectories of Violence Exposure and Drug Use Among Justice-Involved Male Adolescents: A Multi-Trajectory Approach

Author:	Benjamin Kuettel	SUNY Oneonta
----------------	------------------	--------------

Digital Extremisms: Examining Online Inspiring Ideological Violence in the US and India

Authors: Apurva Apurva SUNY Oneonta
Brian Lowe SUNY Oneonta

The Death Penalty in Arizona

Author: Kyleigh Potter Siena College

The Far-Right & Dehumanization: How the Current Republican Party Successfully Attacks Human Rights

Author: Dan Pezzetta George Washington University

Session 3 Global Sociology Golisano 301

By 'Anti-Social' You Mean Addict: Addressing the Police Response to Drug Abuse in Brixton, London

Author: Evangeline Norman St. Lawrence University

Reckoning or Concealment? A Comparative-Historical Analysis of Remembrance in Irish and Northern Irish Prison Museums

Author: Tianna Wyskowski Hartwick College

Social and Cultural Consequences of Climate Change: Comparative Historical Analysis of Puerto Rico and Greece

Author: Thomas Carlon Hartwick College

Modernity in Morocco Preparing for the 2030 World Cup

Author: Samuel Weber Hartwick College

Session 4 Panel Presentation Golisano 303

A New Narrative: Centering Lived Experiences in Academic Study of the Carceral State

Panelists: Carissa Bayack Binghamton University
Victoria McDonald Special Operation Joint Task Force
Mallory Szymanski Alfred University

Discussant: Andrew Pragacz SUNY Cortland

1:00-2:00pm Lunch Golisano 3rd Floor

Caesar Salad, Greek Pasta Salad, Assorted Sandwiches

Lunch Session	Panel Presentation	Golisano 303
----------------------	---------------------------	--------------

The Next Step: Is Graduate School Right for Me?

Panelists	Avery Piefer	University at Albany
	Amanda Connella	University at Albany
	Samuel Ocasio Jr.	University at Albany

Afternoon Sessions 5 – 8	2:00-3:20pm
---------------------------------	--------------------

Session 5	Panel Presentation	Golisano 103
------------------	---------------------------	--------------

Reimagining Carceral Research: Expanding Access to Policing and Incarceration Data in Upstate New York

Panelists:	Sasha Frizzell	Binghamton University
	DeLaney Painter	Binghamton University
	Ted Forsyth	Syracuse University
	Richard Liam Hill VII	Upstate New York Policing Consortium

Discussant:	Andrew Pragacz	SUNY Cortland
--------------------	----------------	---------------

Session 6	The Sociology of Education	Golisano 201
------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

When the Levee Breaks: Identifying and Protecting the Battered Building Blocks of Education

Authors:	Tyler P. Yates	SUNY Morrisville
	Kaylee R. Seddio	Utica University

Responding to Echoes of Atrocity: How do we Teach About Identity, Culture, and History to People Bearing the Memories of Genocide?

Author:	Karni Keushgerian	St. Lawrence University
----------------	-------------------	-------------------------

Anti-racism: What is the Principle Contradiction?

Author:	Sarah Chelius	Binghamton University
----------------	---------------	-----------------------

Session 7	Bad Blood: A Socio-Political Analysis of Pop Culture	Golisano 301
------------------	---	--------------

Breaking the Game: The Wire and Freedom in America

Author:	Cooper Cohen	Hartwick College
----------------	--------------	------------------

“Sick Ink Dude”: A Comparative Study of Body Modifications in Japan and the US

Author:	Halle Wimette	Hartwick College
----------------	---------------	------------------

Rap and Resistance: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Kendrick Lamar's Section.80

Author: Zachary McKenney Hartwick College

The Politics of Taylor Swift: Partisanship, Gen Z, and Sexism'

Author: Laurel Elder Hartwick College

Session 8 The Sociology of Inequality Golisano 303

The Role of Actuarial Discretion in Discrimination in Auto Insurance

Author: Michael Abrams SUNY Geneseo

Access to Gender Affirming Care in Rural Communities: Not So Different from Our Urban Siblings

Author: Indigo Shepard Hartwick College

Faith Despite All Odds: How Do Non-Christian Religious and Non-Religious Americans Perceive Christian Biased Political Content and Policies in the US?

Author: Giovanna Wall Hartwick College

Socioanalysis of Medicine after the illiberal fin de Siècle

Author: Thomas Bechtold Le Moyne College

3:20-3:40pm Break & Refreshments Golisano 3rd Floor Lobby

Afternoon Sessions 9-12 3:40-5:00pm

Session 9 Panel Presentation Golisano 103

Policing, Accountability, and the Marginalized: Examining Mental Health, Oversight, and Power in Law Enforcement

Panelists: Joshua Fishkin Binghamton University
Olivia Gerhardt St John Fisher University
Lauren Arena Upstate New York Policing Consortium
Tyanna Thomas Alfred University
Discussant: Mallory Szymanski Alfred University

Session 10 Capitalism and the Environment Golisano 201

How Capitalism Manufactures Consent and Creates Corporate Ignorance

Author: Andrew Sher Hartwick College

Beyond NIMBYism: Rural Grievances with the Renewable Energy Transition in New York State

Author: Clare Robinson Hamilton College

The Green Mirage: Science, Ideology, and the Politics of Green Neoliberalism

Author: Engin Burak Yilmaz

Binghamton University

Session 11 Panel Presentation

Golisano 301

Urban-Rural Dynamics in Oneonta and the World

Panelists: Apurva Apurva
Annette Mackay
Alex Thomas

SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oneonta

Session 12 The Sociology of Public Health

Golisano 303

Digital Resistance as Public Health Advocacy: Black Women, Structural Violence & Sociopolitical Activism in Online Spaces

Author: Ola Kalu

University at Albany

We Got Issues: Can we stay politically informed, stay politically active, and protect our mental health?

Authors: Liam Brown
Ursula A. Sanborn-
Overby

Hartwick College
SUNY Oneonta

Conspiracism and College Students: What We Know and What We Need to Learn

Author: Ryan Ceresola

Hartwick College

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 Cecilia Menjívar, recipient of the American Sociological Association's 2024 Jessie Bernard Award and the Public Understanding of Sociology Award, as our keynote speaker. Her participation is made possible by the ASA Sorokin Lecture Grant.



Symposium Organizers

Dr. Elena Chernyak, Associate Professor of Sociology

Dr. Zachary McKenney, Assistant Professor of Sociology