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ASA Welcomes MFP Cohort 42

Beth Floyd, ASA Minority Affairs Program

ASA and the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) are pleased to introduce the six new Fellows who comprise MFP Cohort 42. The MFP Advisory Panel met this spring in Washington, DC, to review the large and highly competitive pool of applications. Keeping with tradition, MFP Cohort 42 consists of talented PhD candidates with strong and diverse sociological research interests. The new Fellows will officially begin their participation in MFP on August 1, 2015.

The Fellows will attend the 2015 ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago, where they will take part in a day-long orientation, including a brief history of ASA and a series of research- and professional development-themed presentations by sociologists (all former Fellows themselves). The new Fellows will also participate in a number of required sessions, events, and workshops, including a breakfast meeting with the seven members of MFP Cohort 41. They will have the opportunity to network with sociologists who share similar interests. MFP Cohort 42 will be introduced individually and as a group during the MFP Benefit Reception on Sunday, August 23. You can purchase tickets to this event when you register for the Annual Meeting.

Since 2010, MFP has been generously supported in full by Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS), the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS), the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA), and ASA Council, with more recent support coming from the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) and the Southern Sociological Society (SSS). Support for MFP has also come from significant gifts made by individual ASA members and organizations through the MFP Leadership Campaign in which SWS and the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) participated as donor organizations.

- [Zinobia Bennefield \(SWS MFP #1\)](#)
- [Nnenia Campbell \(AKD MFP\)](#)
- [Shaneda Destine \(SWS MFP #2\)](#)
- [B. Brian Foster \(ABS MFP\)](#)
- [Emerald T. Nguyen \(ASA Council MFP\)](#)
- [Joanna Perez \(MSS MFP\)](#)

Zinobia Bennefield (SWS MFP #1)

Undergraduate Institution: Salem College.

Graduate Institution: Texas A&M University.

Zinobia Bennefield is a doctoral candidate at Texas A&M University. She earned her BA in sociology at Salem College. Her research interests include medical sociology, health disparities, race and ethnic relations, and intersectionality. Zinobia's research involves the study of the sociology of health and illness, using a critical race perspective in health research and a mixed-methods approach to create pragmatic suggestions for the eradication of health disparities. In a 2014 *Social Science and Medicine* article, she used a historical comparative methodological approach to analyze the persistence of institutional racism within the health care system. In a 2015 *American Journal of Health Education* article, she challenged the notion that health education has the same impact on women of different races and argued that specialized health campaigns geared specifically to the cultural realities of women of color, independent of educational level, are essential in closing health awareness gaps. The article won the Ruth Schaffer Best Paper Award from the department of sociology at Texas A&M University. Her dissertation research explores the complexities of adolescent mental health and extends the theoretical and methodological literature concerning the relationship between socioeconomic status, race, social integration and mental disorder.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Nnenia Campbell (AKD MFP)

Undergraduate Institution: University of Central Florida.

Graduate Institution: University of Central Florida and University of Colorado-Boulder.

Nnenia Campbell is a doctoral candidate at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She holds BA and MA degrees in sociology from the University of Central Florida. Her research interests include older adults and disasters, social responses to technological disasters, risk perception, and social capital. Campbell is a research assistant at the University of Colorado Natural Hazards Center and managing editor of *Natural Hazards Review*, a cross-disciplinary journal that bridges engineering and social science research in support of partnered approaches to disaster loss reduction. Additionally, she currently serves as co-chair for the Disaster and Emergency Management Topical Interest Group of the American Evaluation Association. Campbell's dissertation research involves a long-term, qualitative examination of the disaster recovery process among older adults; it uses the 2013 Colorado floods as a case study.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Shaneda Destine (SWS MFP #2)

Undergraduate Institution: SUNY-Old Westbury.

Graduate Institution: CUNY-Queens College and Howard University.

Shaneda Destine is a scholar-activist and a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (with a dual concentration in social inequality and medical sociology) at Howard University. Shaneda received her BA in sociology with a minor in public policy from SUNY-Old Westbury and earned an MA in applied social research from CUNY-Queens College. As a public sociologist, Shaneda is interested in evaluating race, gender, class, and sexuality, while uniting pedagogy with popular education. She has presented research and published work on the health, human rights, and lived experiences of black LGBTQ persons in the United States and abroad. Additionally, she has added to the discourse on current state violence against black and brown working-class people in the United States. Her current research evaluates the anxiety and trauma faced by these underserved communities prior to and after state violence. Shaneda's work can be found in two forthcoming publications. First, an auto-ethnography in an anthology titled *Outside the XY: Queer, Brown Masculinity*, and second, a review of "Young and Gay: Jamaica's Gully Queens" in *Societies Without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences*.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

B. Brian Foster (ABS MFP)

Undergraduate Institution: University of Mississippi.

Graduate Institution: University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Brian Foster is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC) where he takes a mixed-methods and interdisciplinary approach to the study of race, culture, and inequality, with an emphasis on the rural American South. His work considers how public discourse, disseminated through social and popular media, shapes local culture and lived experience, both socially and materially. Brian's dissertation research examines the rhetorical, textual, and visual tropes that comprise public discourse about the rural South and juxtaposes these tropes with the experiences and perspectives of present-day communities in this context. The study relies on content and discourse analysis as well as critical ethnography in a Mississippi Delta town. Brian has also published research on the determinants and implications of student aspirations, and is co-founder and contributor for *Still Furious and Brave*, a pop culture and social-justice focused weblog that covers a variety of topics and issues centered on marginalized communities. Brian has received support from the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, the National Science Foundation, the Graduate School at UNC, and the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Emerald T. Nguyen (ASA Council MFP)

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Davis.

Graduate Institution: University of California-Davis.

Emerald T. Nguyen is a doctoral candidate at the University of California-Davis. She received a BA with honors in sociology and communication from the University of California-Davis where she researched gender differences in congressional leaders' support for social assistance programs. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, Emerald worked for the federal government in Washington, DC, in the area of health care. Her research and teaching interests include immigrant incorporation, race/ethnicity, marriage and family, adolescent development and wellbeing and health outcomes and behaviors. Her dissertation uses mixed methods to study the extended household—those with non-nuclear members—to understand how this family dynamic functions for immigrants across generations. Using Current Population Survey data along with interviews with Asian, Latino, white, and black extended householders, she examines the mechanisms that lead to household extension, the meanings that householders have of their family relative to other forms, and the employment of adult extended householders relative to non-extended householders. Emerald's other research focuses on second-generation immigrant youth mental health. She is currently collaborating on projects related to immigrant healthcare workers, immigrants' interactions with community-based organizations, and U.S.-Mexico migration.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Joanna Perez (MSS MFP)

Undergraduate Institution: University of California-Los Angeles.

Graduate Institution: University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.

Joanna Perez, the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants grew up in a predominantly Latino immigrant community in Los Angeles. In 2009, Joanna earned a BA in sociology from UCLA, with a double minor in labor and workplace studies and civic engagement. In 2011, Joanna earned her MA in sociology with a minor in Latina/Latino studies from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, where she is currently a doctoral candidate. Her research focuses on how systems of power and inequality as well as the intersectionality between race, class, gender, sexuality, and immigration status impact marginalized communities. In her dissertation, Joanna uses in-depth interviews, physical and virtual fieldwork, archival research, and social media to understand the experiences of Latino undocumented immigrant young adult activists in the United States.

She has received numerous university awards and recognitions for her work, including being listed as an "Excellent Teacher" for the past six years, awarded the Beslow-Geisert Summer Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and receiving the Latino Graduate Student Leader award.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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