

SOCIOLOGY @ MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OVERVIEW

Michigan State University's (MSU) Department of Sociology is dedicated to preparing students for careers in academia and the public and private sectors. We have a diverse range of research and teaching areas represented in the Department, but we are especially strong in our three signature areas: Environment, Health and Medicine, and Migration.

Our faculty conduct theoretical, applied, and policy-relevant research nationally and internationally in our signature areas and other related fields. Students also may choose to enhance their Sociology training with certificates in a range of topics (e.g., Animal Studies; Chicano/Latino Studies; Environmental Science and Policy; Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change; Women's Studies). A hallmark of the program is the integration of interdisciplinary applications into research and teaching, reflecting the department's broad and deep working relationships with many other disciplines (e.g., agriculture, biomedical sciences, education, natural resources, etc.).

The Department of Sociology's signature areas are:

ENVIRONMENT

Humans change ecosystems and even the biosphere by our food and energy production, our waste disposal, our use of land, and our interactions with other species. We are, in turn, affected by climate change, pollution, and changes in ecosystem structure and function and in the ecosystem on which we depend. In recent decades, sociologists have come to systematically investigate human-environment intersections, examining how humans (individually, in organizations, or in larger social groups) affect the biophysical environment and how the biophysical environment influences social phenomena. MSU has the largest group of U.S. sociologists studying human-environment interactions. MSU sociologists engaged in scholarship on the environment focus on a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, climate change, agriculture and food systems, animal studies, and water resources. We also examine the social psychology of environmental concern, public opinion, political economy, and the role of institutions in shaping human-environment interactions. A core group of MSU faculty studies how science and technology mediate the relationship between humans and the environment. In addition, many MSU faculty regularly engage in interdisciplinary research projects.

MIGRATION

More than 215 million people (3% of the world population) live outside their country of origin, a number projected to double by 2050. Close to 1 billion people (13% of world population) have crossed administrative geo-boundaries at least once. Migration involves the transference of ideologies, identities, religion, political, and other social, economic, and cultural traits and practices. The MSU Department of Sociology is a recognized center of expertise and excellence in research, teaching and outreach on migration, transnationalism and diaspora. MSU Department of Sociology faculty critically examines not only the forces behind human movement, but also the diversity of the populations involved and the impact that they have in sending and receiving communities. MSU migration scholars apply the full range of sociological methods, from visual sociology and cultural studies, to historical analysis, ethnography, demography, and census analysis and survey research.

HEALTH and MEDICINE

Faculty and students active in the sociology department's Health and Medicine program study the social context of health, illness, and health care, with a central focus on health disparities by race/ethnicity, social class, gender, and marital status; political, economic, and environmental circumstances that threaten health; and societal forces that impact the health care system. Faculty members often collaborate with scholars across MSU's College of Human Medicine, College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, and College of Communication Arts and Sciences. In recent years, research projects of affiliated faculty have been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Medicaid/Medicare, and United States Department of Agriculture.

APPLICATION

The deadline to apply to our doctoral program is **December 15th**. The department admits new full-time students in fall semesters only. We do **not** accept students interested in obtaining a terminal Master's degree.

Required: Curriculum vita/resume, academic writing sample, personal statement, academic statement, GRE General Scores, transcripts from all universities/colleges attended, and (3) letters of support submitted by your recommenders. TOEFL scores are required for non-native speakers of English. Although an undergraduate degree or coursework in sociology is preferred, we do accept students from a range of academic backgrounds. Experience with research and some familiarity with appropriate methodological and analytic tools are beneficial. For more detailed application requirements, go to the Department of Sociology website at <http://sociology.msu.edu/grad/apply>.

One important element in evaluating student applicants is our assessment of the match between the applicant's intellectual and research interests and those of our Sociology faculty. Before applying please get to know us by reviewing the website (see especially faculty research profiles) and contacting faculty whose interests seem to align with yours. When making admissions decisions, we want to make sure we are the right department to suit your needs.

FACULTY

Isabel Ayala, (Migration)
Cliff Broman, (Family; Health & Medicine)
Jennifer Carrera, (Environment; Health)
Soma Chaudhuri, (Community & Urban)
Tom Dietz (Environment)
Jualynne Dodson (Migration)
Stephen Gasteyer, (Environment)
Steven Gold, (Migration; Urban)
Ning Hsieh, (Health & Medicine)
Raymond Jussaume, (Environment)
Linda Kalof, (Animal Studies)
Hui Liu, (Family; Health & Medicine)

Sandy Marquart-Pyatt, (Environment)
Rubén Martínez, (Community & Urban)
Aaron McCright, (Environment)
Dan Menchik, (Health & Medicine)
Brendan Mullan, (Migration)
Stephanie Nawyn, (Migration)
Aaron Ponce, (Migration)
Xuefei Ren, (Community & Urban)
Barbara Schneider, (Education)
Carl Taylor, (Community & Urban)
Wynne Wright, (Environment)
Zhenmei Zhang, (Family; Health & Medicine)

The Department of Sociology at Michigan State University offers generous, competitive, multi-year funding packages.

Just minutes from Michigan's state capital, our campus location in East Lansing will offer you a wonderful opportunity to live, learn, and study in an exciting and diverse environment. Please contact the Graduate Program Director **Dr. Sandra Marquart-Pyatt** (marqua41@msu.edu) for more information.