



Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses

Shinta Hernandez, Editor and Katie Torkashvan, Layout

September 2021

Greetings, Colleagues! I hope the new academic year is off to an excellent start. We have come a long way since the beginning of remote work back in March 2020. I hope you all have managed to stay safe and healthy in the midst of a global pandemic. This pandemic has offered us a unique opportunity to be supportive, graceful, trusting, collaborative, and innovative in many areas of our lives. I appreciate that our students continue to be resilient, dedicated, and genuine in their efforts to help each other and our communities.

After nearly 15 years working at Montgomery College, I remain humbled at the passion and compassion displayed by my colleagues. The work that happens in the Department emphasizes social change, leadership, growth, and solidarity. It is my pleasure to share with you how the faculty, staff, and students continuously come together to transform our shared goals into reality. I hope you enjoy learning about our most recent developments.

Have a wonderful Fall 2021 semester!

All the best,

Shinta Hernandez, Ph.D.

Department Chair



We are excited to welcome full time faculty member **Professor Kevin Gibbons** (anthropology) to the Department. Professor Gibbons most recently served as an adjunct at Montgomery College for two years. His current research uses animal bones, soil erosion, and archaeology to explore the impacts of pastoralism on the economic potential of landscapes. He frames his courses around environmental literacy and social and ecological resilience.



Professor Gibbons has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia and an M.Sc. in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy from the University of Sheffield. His doctoral work at the University of Maryland focuses on Icelandic sheep grazing, land degradation, and social inequality across the previous millennium.

We are also pleased to announce that **Professor Naaman Foster** is a one-semester full-time faculty member and teaches sociology and criminology. He has been teaching at Montgomery College as an adjunct since August 2008. In addition to community college teaching, he has over 20 years of management and supervisory experience in project development in mental health programming, non-violence crisis intervention, and other areas of social services. Professor Foster also provides face-to-face and online instruction to medically fragile students who are no longer attending their regular MCPS home school.



We are delighted to announce the newest member of our Department and a future Raptor. Please give a warm Montgomery College hello to Rayane! **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) and her husband Tom Colling welcomed their second daughter on July 15, 2021. Rayane joins big sister Freya in deciding who is going to rule the house (and the world)!

And the Award Goes To...

Through the generous giving of **Dr. Mary Gallagher**, Anthropology Professor Emerita, Montgomery College now offers an Excellence in Anthropology Award. The awards will go to students who perform exceptional work on their signature assignments in any anthropology course. The Excellence in Anthropology Award will cover the tuition for an anthropology course (3 credits). The courses are listed here along with the degree requirements that they complete. Please inform your students of this opportunity, and refer them to **Dr. Maria Sprehn** (anthropology) if they have questions.

- ANTH 201 – Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, *BSSD, GEEL, GCP*
- ANTH 215 – Human Evolution and Archaeology, *NSND, GEEL, GCP*
- ANTH 240 – Introduction to Archaeology, *BSSD, GEEL*
- ANTH 256 – World Cultures, *BSSD, GEEL, GCP*

The Department is also offering the annual Robert Gruenberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship opportunity is for students interested in the social sciences and have taken a total of six hours of course work in sociology, anthropology, and/or criminal justice. Students must also demonstrate a financial need and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. If selected, the funds will be used for the Spring 2022 semester. Please let students know about this opportunity, and have them contact **Dr. Camille Sola** (sociology) for additional information.

Faculty members in the Department, in collaboration with the Offices of ELITE and Student Life, are recipients of an Innovation Grant that is directly linked to social justice, equity and inclusion, and enhanced teaching and learning. Developed and led by a highly collaborative team, **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology), **Dr. Ladan Rahnama** (sociology), **Dr. Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), **Dr. Paul Miller** (Director of Professional Development), **Dr. Angela Lanier** (Instructional Designer), and **Ms. Kimberly Jones** (Director of Student Life) will launch the Social Justice Ambassadors Program: A Faculty and Student Partnership to Decolonize the Curriculum. The program is a student-centered opportunity that brings together faculty and students to learn about decolonizing higher education and co-create materials to support an inclusive curriculum at Montgomery College. More information about this program will be released in the weeks to come. If you have questions about the program, please contact **Dr. Angela Lanier** (ELITE Instructional Designer).

Careers in Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Program will host its annual Careers in Criminal Justice Day event on Tuesday, October 19 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. The event will be hosted virtually on Zoom. We will host local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, including the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, Maryland Parole and Probation, Ocean City Police Department, U.S. Capitol Police, and many more. We encourage all students considering a career in law enforcement, corrections, parole and probation, or the courts to attend. The event is open to students of all majors. Please share the attached flyer with students. Participants can register at: <https://bit.ly/CAREERSINCJDAY>.

Also, the Montgomery County Police Department will be virtually available on Thursday, September 23 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Recruiter Melissa Coligan will speak with students about career, cadet, and internship opportunities. All students interested in law enforcement are encouraged to attend. Please share the Zoom link information with students:

<https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/93844306417?pwd=VjBYZ1JaL2JrYy9zNFFRanA1Z05Cdz09>

Meeting ID: 938 4430 6417

Passcode: 417960

For more information about these exciting events, please contact **Professor Sean Fay** (criminal justice).



The Montgomery College Criminal Justice Program

is hosting a **VIRTUAL**

Careers in Criminal Justice Day

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

From 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Participants can register for the event at:

<https://bit.ly/CAREERSINCJDAY>

Students interested in talking with recruitment officials about career, cadet, and internship opportunities with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies are encouraged to participate.



What Does Social Justice Look Like in the Classroom?

Through the Office of ELITE Summer Professional Development Institute, Montgomery College's commitment to high quality instruction continues with a robust set of faculty professional development offerings. This past summer 2021, faculty had the opportunity to choose how best to engage to meet their individual learning needs. Of the variety of selections, a Series Learning Pathway was offered for faculty to extend learning around a common theme. Nearly 100 participants partook in the "Social Justice: Creating an Inclusive Curriculum" Learning Pathway, co-facilitated by **Dr. Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) and **Dr. Angela Lanier** (ELITE Instructional Designer). Over the course of three summer sessions, participants, including many faculty members from the Department and across the Education and Social Sciences Area, gained an understanding of how to develop, implement, and evaluate best practices that provide access, equity, acceptance, and inclusion among faculty and staff, including student engagement opportunities and innovative pedagogy. As a result of this learning pathway, many faculty participants have shared their revised syllabus that is now more inclusive, their redesigned assessments that meet various learning styles, and their revamped teaching philosophy that empowers, engages, and includes all learners.

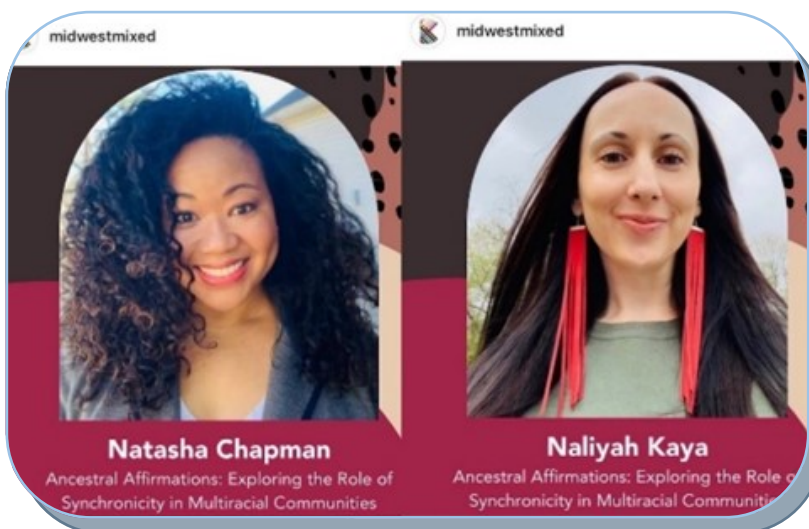
Get to Know Our Part Time Faculty Associate

Dr. Shannell Thomas (sociology) is serving as the Part Time Faculty Associate (PTFA) in Dean Eric Benjamin's Education and Social Sciences Area for a second year. She has been teaching sociology at Montgomery College for three years and just recently earned her doctorate from Howard University. Her research interests include Black social movements, politics of criminal justice, and gender and sexuality. As a PTFA, Dr. Thomas will continue to answer questions and connect part time faculty with appropriate resources, keep adjuncts abreast of related information, and work with Dean Benjamin and all of his Department Chairs to provide accurate and timely information.



External Professional Activities and Community Engagement

Over the summer, **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) participated in a number of professional activities on multiracial experiences, ancestral lineages, and spoken word poetry. Select engagements include a co-presentation at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) entitled "Multiracial Voices Across Higher Education: Experiences and Strategies from Diverse Multiracial Students, Staff, and Faculty" and another co-presentation at the MidWest Mixed Conference: Beyond the Bounds called "Ancestral Affirmations: Exploring the Role of Synchronicity in Multiracial Communities." Dr. Kaya is a current fellow in the Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship.



During the week of June 14, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) held the 2021 Department Leaders Summer Institute where anthropology and other social science faculty discussed how to strengthen social science departments through higher education. **Dr. Maria Sprehn** (anthropology) participated by helping to organize the event and provide the community college perspective. She also led a session on interdisciplinary connections within the College. **Professor Matthew Decker** (English) and MC's Anthropology Advisory Committee member, Dr. Sarah Jewett (UMBC, Executive Director, STEM Transfer Student Success Initiative), also participated by leading a session on "How and Why to Build Partnerships between Two- and Four-Year Schools." The most popular session, led by Princeton anthropologist Dr. Carolyn Rouse, brought attendees together to discuss "How to Create an Antiracist Workplace for Faculty and Students."



AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems

In her ongoing efforts on decolonization, **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) co-presented with **Dr. Lucy Grinnell** (Director of the Rockville Writing, Reading, and Learning Center) at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in June 2021. Their presentation was called "Decolonizing Higher Education: Practical Applications at a Maryland Community College." Dr. Salmi also presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA) on the recent attacks against critical race theory in the U.S., U.K., and France. Her presentation was entitled "Attacks on Critical Race Theory, Antiracism, and Decolonial Thinking: A Multi-National Analysis." Dr. Salmi is a current fellow in the Scholarship for Excellence in Teaching Faculty Fellowship.



Dr. Shinta Hernandez (sociology) has been selected to help re-design and co-facilitate this year's MarylandOnline Leadership Institute (MOLLI), which is a residential leadership program held in Annapolis, MD and offered through MarylandOnline (MOL). Started in 2017, MOLLI has become one of MOL's premier programs available to member colleges and universities. The program is designed to empower future leaders throughout the state of Maryland, specifically focusing on supporting cohort groups in online education leadership. Dr. Hernandez is also co-presenting at the annual Open Education Global and OpenEd Conference this September and October 2021, respectively, on topics related to the award-winning United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship co-led by **Dr. Michael Mills** (Vice President of ELITE), as well as on the intersection of open education and equity, diversity, and inclusion as part of her work as the Vice President of Professional Development on the Community College Consortium of Open Education Resources (CCCOER) Executive Council. Dr. Hernandez is also going to serve as the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Technical College System's first ever OER Conference in October 2021. The theme of the conference is "Open Educational Resources in Wisconsin: Inspiration to Action."



*Empowering Future Leaders
in Online Learning*

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Open Pedagogy Pressbooks Toolkit

In its commitment to the use of open educational resources (OER) for students, Montgomery College introduces Pressbooks! Through the Office of ELITE, under the MC Open Initiative, Pressbooks is an online repository that includes open resources, such as videos, animations, illustrations, and a plethora of activities. Users can engage students in creating, curating, and publishing OER using Pressbooks.

Now in its fourth year, the award-winning United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship, co-led by **Dr. Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) and **Dr. Michael Mills** (Vice President of ELITE), has a place in Pressbooks. To take a look at this faculty toolkit, please visit this website: <https://pressbooks.montgomerycollege.edu/unsdgtoolkit/>

With seven institutional partners spanning across North America, this global fellowship intersects interdisciplinary connections, open pedagogy, and student community engagement. This year's cohort of 40 faculty fellows, including **Professor Kevin Gibbons** (anthropology) and **Professor Kristopher Kohler** (sociology) from the Department, teamed up with faculty from other institutional partners to design interdisciplinary renewable assignments (i.e., OERs) focused on the UN SDGs.



“The Basil and Nancy Dorsey House: A Community Archaeology Project in Sugarland”

By Professor Tara Tetrault

When the Sugarland Ethno-History Project (SEHP) proposed excavating the original circa-1874 Basil and Nancy Dorsey log house, I thought it would be a great opportunity to work with the SEHP community, add to the museum Gwen Reese and Suzanne Johnson already started, and investigate what the archaeology tells us about the Dorsey farmstead in Sugarland, MD. According to Gwen Reese and Suzanne Johnson, the people who moved to Sugarland did so with high ideals of doing everything in their power to make Sugarland a wonderful place to live. Therefore, the focus of the 2021 Archaeology Testing Project is to test the Dorsey's home located on Lot 40. This lot contains the Basil and Nancy Dorsey's home and two acres of the original four-acre farm. Because the Dorsey's were among the early families in Sugarland, their home gives us an opportunity to get a glimpse into the past and understand more about the early settlement of this African American community.

There is so little known about the lives of Basil and Nancy Dorsey, their children, and Haskins and Mary Offutt, who lived with the Dorsey's before they settled and built a home of their own. The purpose of the archaeological fieldwork is to survey and test the house, the farm area, and the orchard to help us interpret the lives of Nancy and Basil Dorsey and their family. This past summer 2021, we conducted a test of the house and yard. A virtual exhibit with a walk through will be produced along with two archaeology reports and a teaching curriculum module with hands-on lesson plans on African American archaeology and preservation.

Why is this project so important? Sugarland is a story of how people have taken care of each other since its inception in the 1860s and 1870s. Families ran their own farms, worked in the local quarry, and established and grew their own town institutions. Together, Sugarland families created a thriving community with a local band, a post office, a general store, and a school

that children attended first in the church and then in a county-funded schoolhouse. The church provided a place for the community to gather and to resolve disputes through their own church-based trial system. All of this happened while the residents of Sugarland faced economic hardship and racism. Sugarland has an important story to tell because it expands the conversation about who built Maryland communities to include rural African American people and racially mixed communities. Therefore, the archaeology we are doing at the Basil and Nancy Dorsey site will yield new insights into the past and enhance that conversation.

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